クレイモア

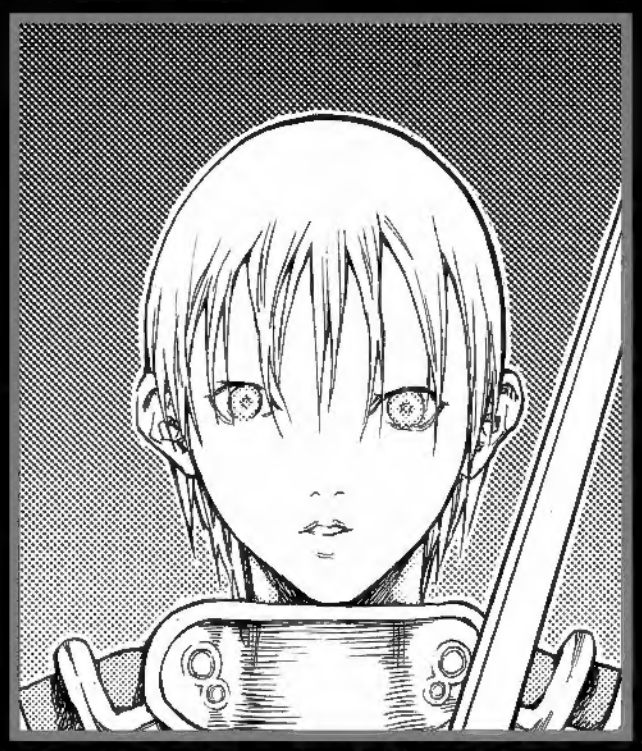
Claymore™

9

SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED

Story & Art by

NORIHIRO YAGI



Norihiro Yagi won the 32nd Akatsuka Award for his debut work, *UNDEADMAN*, which appeared in *Monthly Shonen Jump* magazine and produced two sequels. His first serialized manga was his comedy *Angel Densetsu* (Angel Legend), which appeared in *Monthly Shonen Jump* from 1992 to 2000. His epic saga, *Claymore*, is running in *Monthly Jump Square* magazine.

In his spare time, Yagi enjoys things like the Japanese comedic duo Downtown, martial arts, games, driving, and hard rock music, but he doesn't consider these actual hobbies.

CLAYMORE VOL. 9
SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY
NORIHIRO YAGI

English Adaptation & Translation/Arashi Productions
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Design/Izumi Evers
Editor/Jonathan Tarbox

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RATED
T+
FOR OLDER TEEN
PARENTAL ADVISORY
CLAYMORE is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains nudity and realistic violence.
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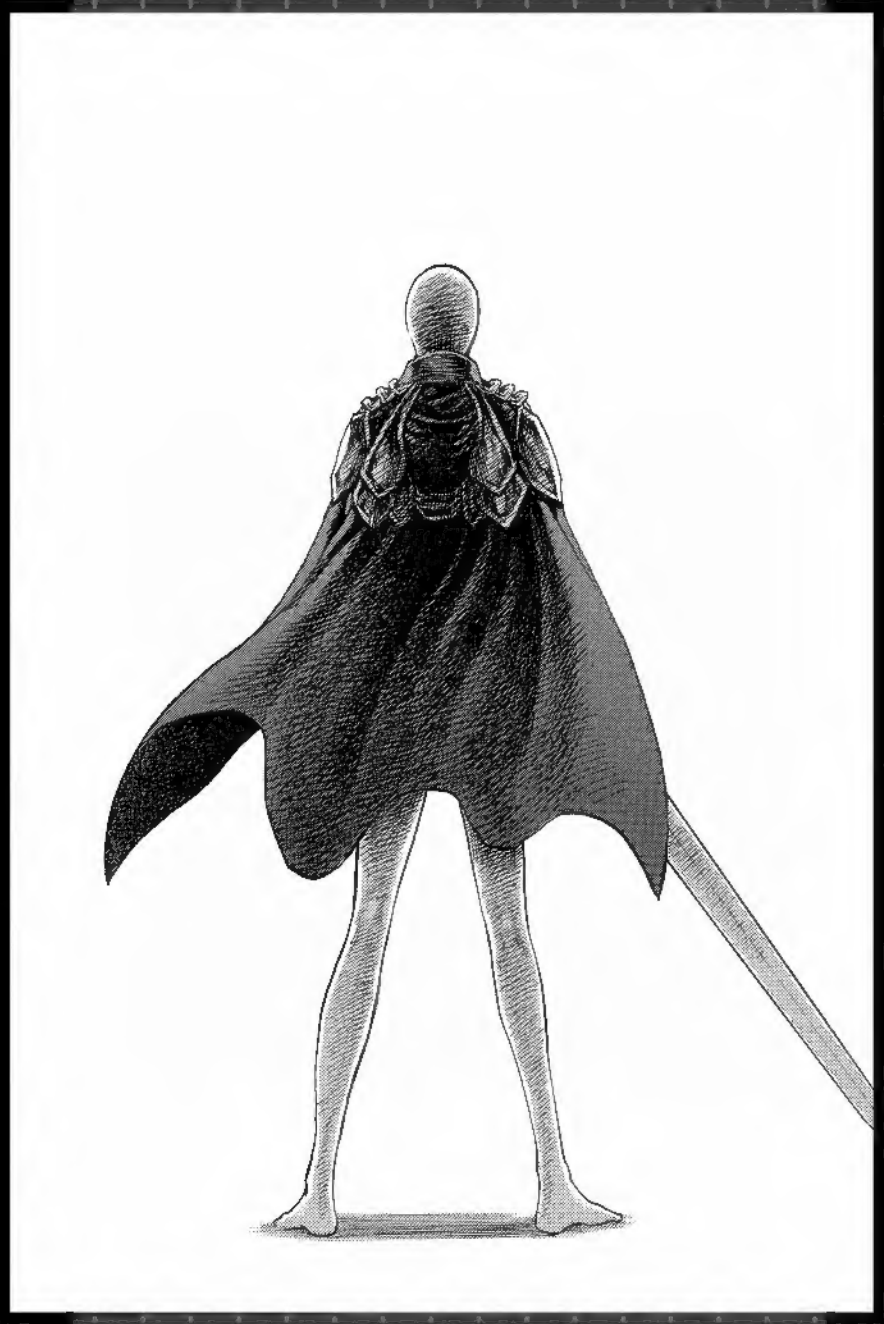
SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED Manga Edition

クレイモア Claymore



Vol. 9
The Deep Abyss of Purgatory

Story and Art by Norihiro Yagi

The Story Thus Far

Creatures known as Yoma have long preyed on humans, who were once powerless against their predators. But now mankind has developed female warriors who are half human and half monster, with silver eyes that can see the monsters' true form. These warriors came to be called Claymores after the immense broadswords that they carried.

Clare landed trouble when she entered the den of Riful of the West, one of the Three Great Awakened Ones. But she also found a lead to the whereabouts of her mortal enemy, Priscilla. Meanwhile, Number 9, Jean, is on the verge of awakening; can she be saved?

クレイモア

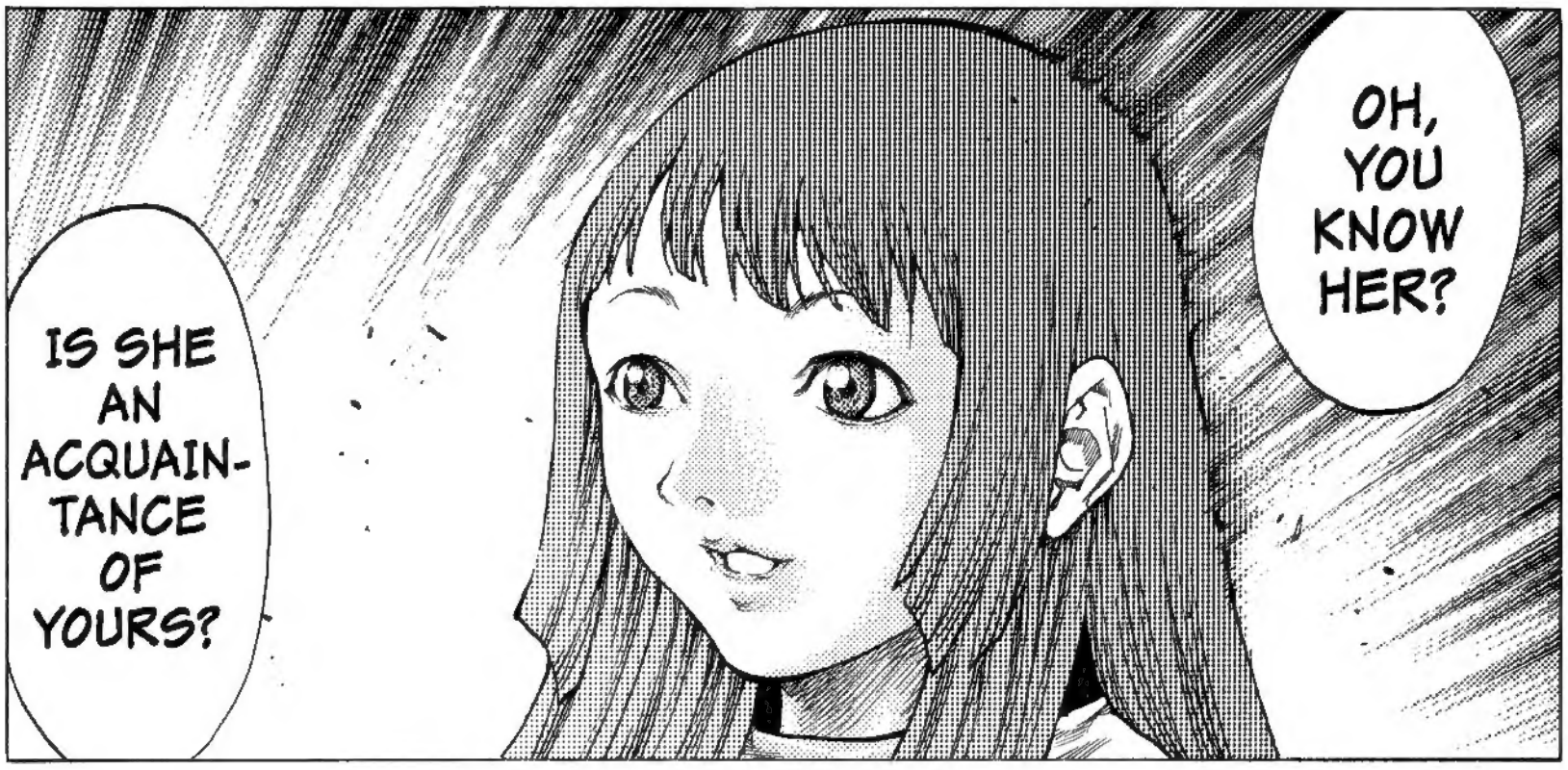
Claymore

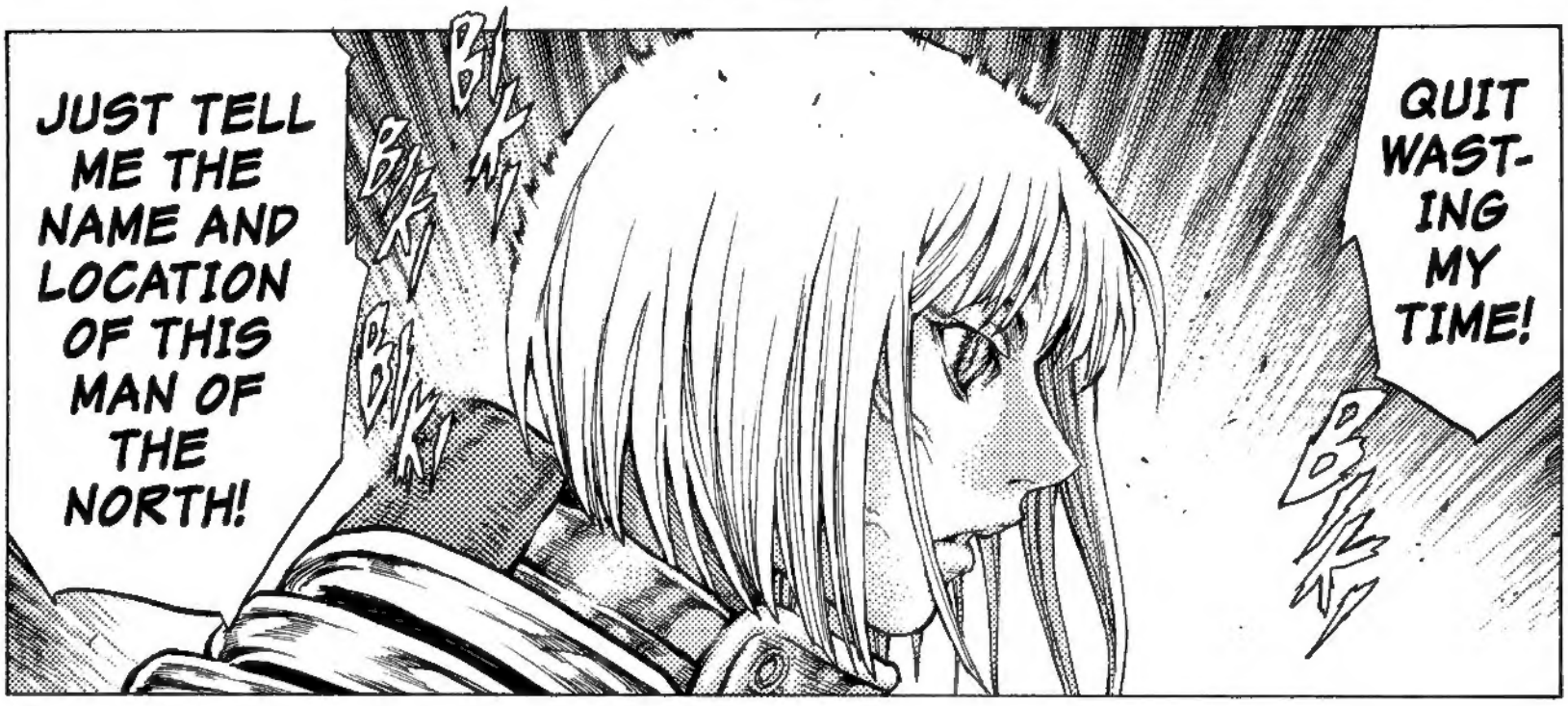
Vol. 9

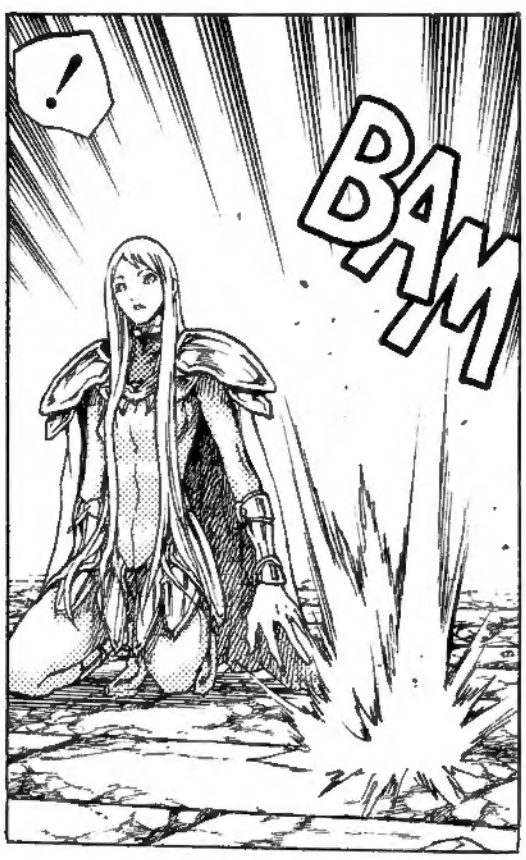
CONTENTS

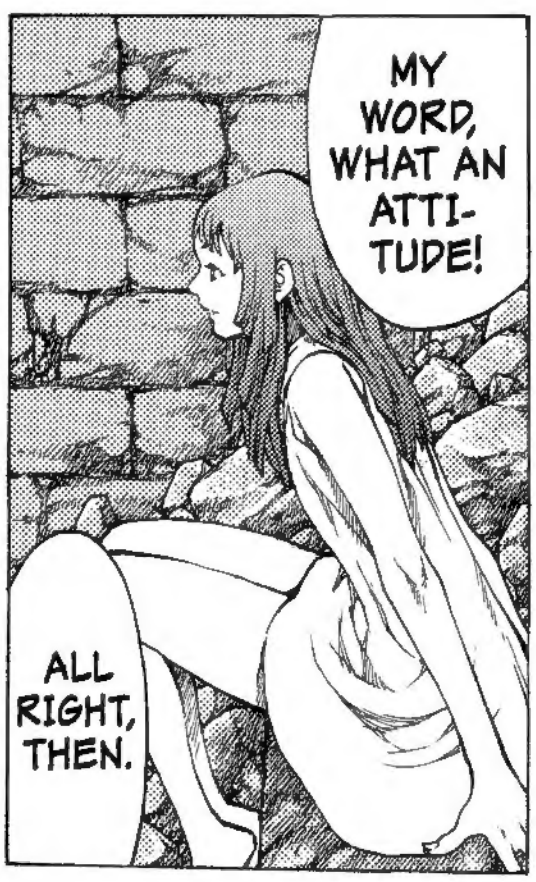
Scene 46	The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 1	7
Scene 47	The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 2	39
Scene 48	The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 3	71
Scene 49	The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 4	95
Scene 50	The Battle of the North, Part 1	127
Scene 51	The Battle of the North, Part 2	159

Scene 46: The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 1









Scene 46: The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 1

CHANG

CHNG

TOO BAD.

THAT WAS CLOSE.

GEH!

DO GAAT

UP THERE.

HUH?

THINK FAST.

NUM-BER 47!

GAA

BAM

YOU ...

WHA ...

GRAH!

WH AM

BIKI

BIKI BIKI BIKI

FWIP

SMIRK

READ THIS WAY

WHOSH

SAKU

DO GAAAT

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE WHIN-ING.

OH, COME ON.

DOGAGA

OW!

OW OW OW OW!

UH ...

OW!

SH UP

GRAAH!!

DO OM

NOT SO FAST, GIRLIE!

DOGAAAT

!!!

READ THIS WAY

INSTEAD OF JUST SLIPPING PAST YOUR LIMITS, IT SEEMS YOU'VE GOT GREATER POWER AND SPEED IF YOU DELIBERATELY PUSH PAST YOUR LIMITS BY WILL.

HMM... INTER-ESTING.

!!!

KA

SHAK

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

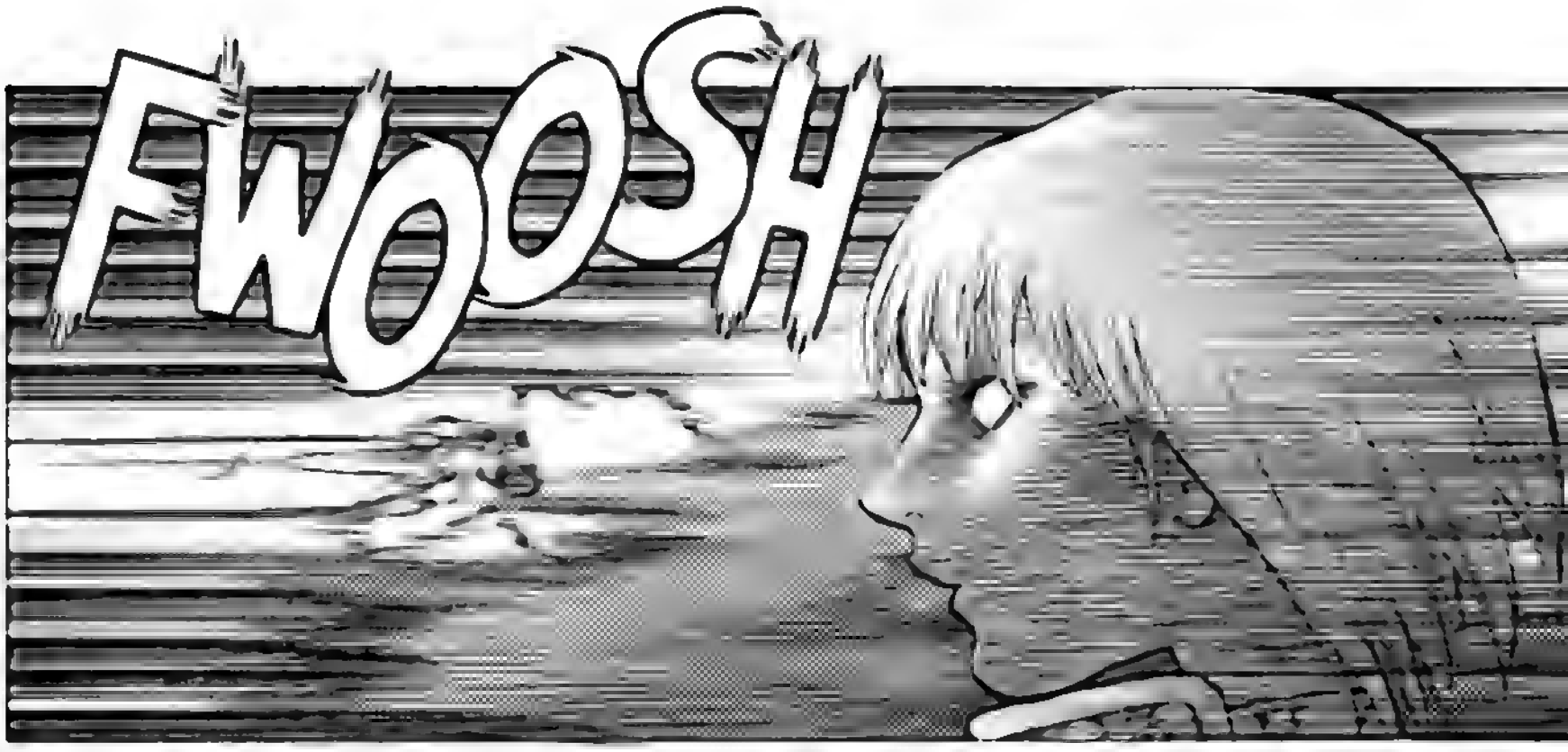
BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

WHA ...


FWOOSH

KA
BA
GUH!
HUH?
FWISH
KATHUD

GA

SHAK

IF YOU WANT TO DIE SO BADLY ...

I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH.

FWOSH

NOT YET, I'M AFRAID.

YOU HAVEN'T CUT ME YET.

NOW ...

YOU'LL ANSWER MY QUESTION.

BIKI BIKI BIKI

SH

UP

YOU REALLY ARE A TROUBLE-SOME CHILD.

!!!

READ THIS WAY

GRIP

WHA

M

WH

AM

!!

GAH ...

GRAH!

ZAZAAA

BAM

UHUH!

UGH ...

YOU COM-PLETELY LOST YOUR-SELF.

YOU ALMOST BECAME ONE OF HER MINIONS.

WH ... WHAT ...

WHAT AM I...

SHE WAS ALMOST THERE.

OH, POO.

TOO BAD.

READ THIS WAY

THAT WAS HER PLAN.

YOU LET YOURSELF BE PROVOKED AND ALMOST AWAKENED.

GRR ...

TREMBLE

SHE GAVE YOU THAT INFOR-MATION PRECISELY TO ANGER YOU.

YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THAT YOU WERE PLAYING RIGHT INTO HER HANDS.

BIKI BIKI

NOW I'M REAL MAD!

YOU LITTLE WRETCH.

BIKI

YOU ...

MRRRR

GAH.

OW OW OW.

CRACK

IF THE CREATURE OF THE ABYSS DOESN'T WANT TO FIGHT US, WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE.

I'LL TAKE DOWN THIS BIG CLOD.

!

SHIVER

SHIVER

GRR ...

THE ONE WHO HAS THE POWER TO PIERCE THIS BEAST'S TOUGH HIDE.

BUT WE STILL NEED THE STRENGTH OF ANOTHER.

WE NEED TO GET HER FROM BELOW.

NUMBER 9, JEAN.

READ THIS WAY

JEAN?

NUM-BER 9...

SHE MIGHT AWAKEN AT ANY MOMENT.

I'M AFRAID SHE'S DAMAGED IN BOTH BODY AND SPIRIT.

BUT SHE'S IN AN EX-TREMELY UNSTABLE CONDI-TION.

MEANWHILE, YOU GO DOWN THE HOLE THIS BIG LUMMOX MADE AND FOLLOW THE TUNNEL TO SET JEAN FREE.

!

GASUAK

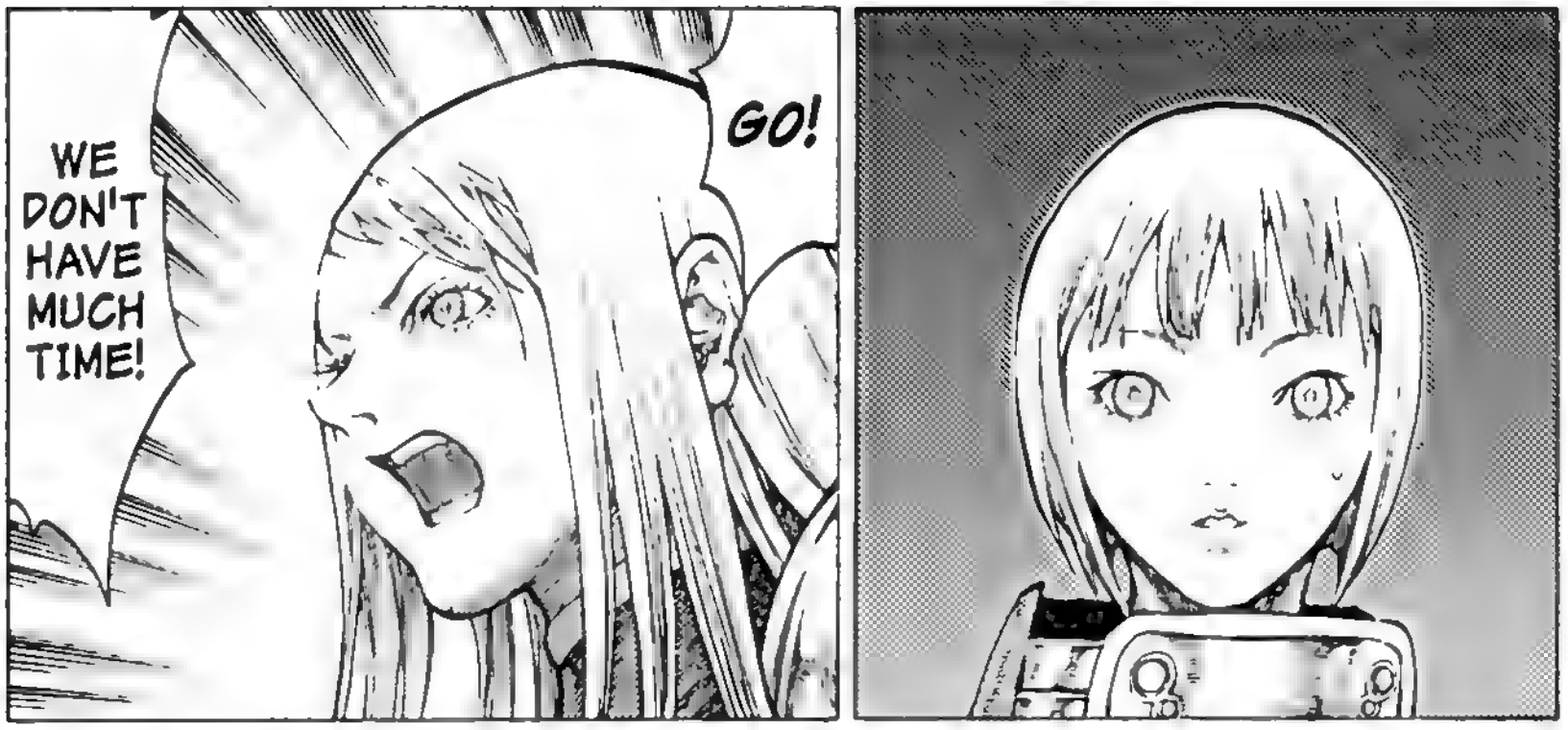
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE.

KNOWING HER, SHE'D CHOOSE DEATH OVER AWAKEN-ING.

YOU'LL HAVE TO DESTROY HER.

IF IT'S TOO LATE FOR HER...

SOMEHOW, SHE MUST BE IN A SITUATION THAT PREVENTS HER FROM DOING SO.


WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
GO!

BA
BAM

GRAAH!!
DO
GA
OH NO YA DON'T!
GAA

GAN GAN GAN

YOU ...

!!

GUAK

DOGAAAA

WSSH

SHHP

WH

!!

AA

M.

GUA

WHA...

THIS ONE HURTS WORSE THAN THE LAST!

BAM

OW!

OW!

CHNG

WHAM

WHAM

CHANG

BASH

WHAM

WSSH

READ THIS WAY

HUH?

HHACK

BIK

BIK

BIK

BIK

BIK

GAH!

GRAH!

ZUZAAA

YOU ...

YOU ...

IT'S AGAINST MY SENSE OF STYLE ...

...AND I PREFER TO AVOID DOING IT.

BIK

BIK

BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
...IS THE GREAT-EST OF ALL THE FORTY-SEVEN!
BUT WHEN RELEASED, THE LEVEL OF MY YOMA POWER ...
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS UGLY FACE!
SORRY, BUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE ...

READ THIS WAY

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YER MUCKING AROUND!

NOW I'M GONNA KILL YA!

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

AW-RIGHT ...

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

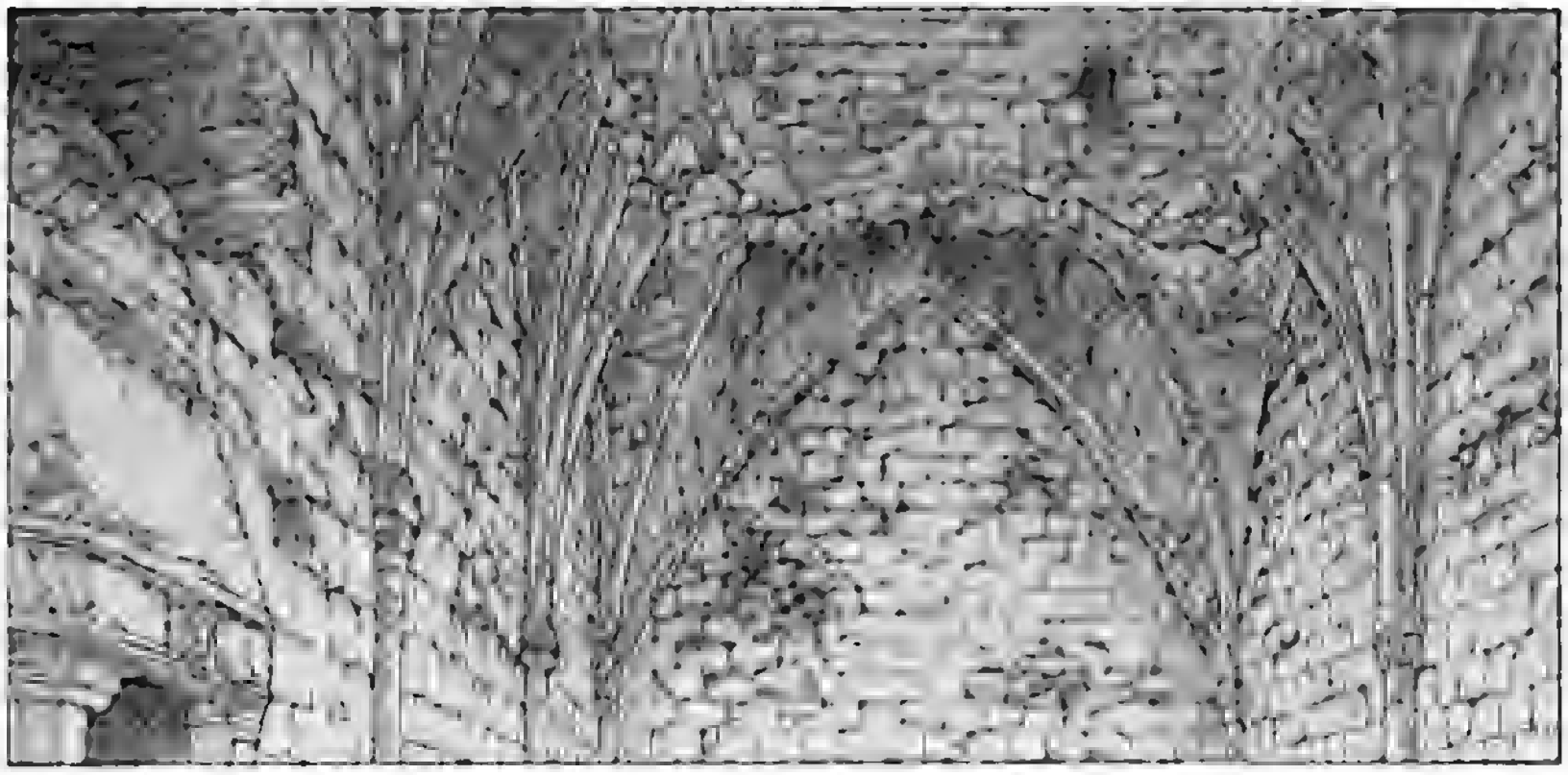
BIKI

BIKI

SHE'S TRY-ING TO BUY TIME.

SO ...

HEH



BAM
BAM

TH
UD

FSSH

READ THIS WAY

I CAN'T JUST KEEP FOLLOWING THAT MONSTER'S TRAIL OF DESTRUC-TION.

IT'S LIKE A MAZE.

DAMN. WHERE IS SHE?

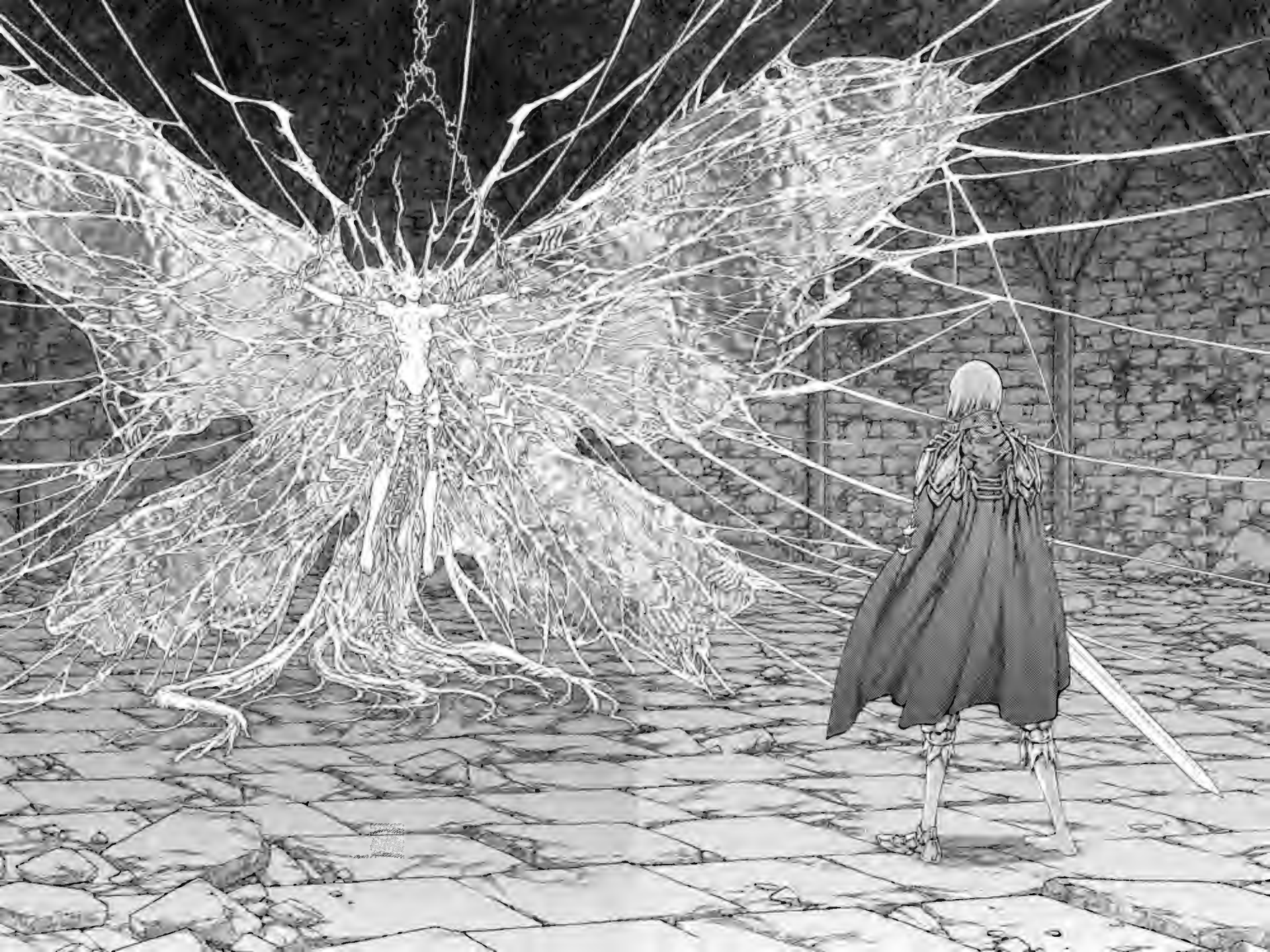
THERE!

DASH

TWITCH

WHA ...

THU P



AH ...

AH ...

AH ...

!!

...

DAMN.

I'M TOO LATE.

IF ONLY I'D GOTTEN HERE SOONER.

... ILL ...

... ME ...

READ THIS WAY

DASH

KILL ... ME...

HU... HURRY ...

I... CAN'T ...

ZA-ZAT

PLEASE...

CAN'T ...

CAN'T ... HOLD ON...

CAN HER WILL BE THAT STRONG?

IMPOS-SIBLE! HER BODY HAS FULLY AWAKENED, YET SHE'S HELD BACK HER SOUL!

!!

BIKI BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

GASH

AK

BUT SHE'S STILL SUPPRESS-ING IT WITH HER WILL POWER.

SHE'S ALREADY GAINED ENOUGH STRENGTH TO TEAR AWAY THE SHACK-LES.

I CAN DIE... STILL HUMAN ...

THANK ... YOU ...

SHA

KA

READ THIS WAY

GISHIN

GA

SHA

AN

!!!

YOU CAN DO IT!

COME BACK!

COME BACK!

ONCE YOU... CROSS YOUR LIMITS... THERE'S NO WAY...

WHAT... ARE YOU... SAY-ING?

I CAN'T ...

BIKI

NO... CAN'T ...

PLEASE ... HURRY... KILL ME...

BIKI BIKI

YOU CAN DO IT!

EVEN IF YOU CROSS YOUR LIMITS, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE YOU CAN COME BACK!

IT'S ALL RIGHT!

I WANT TO DIE... PEACE-FULLY... *LIKE A HUMAN...*

BIKI

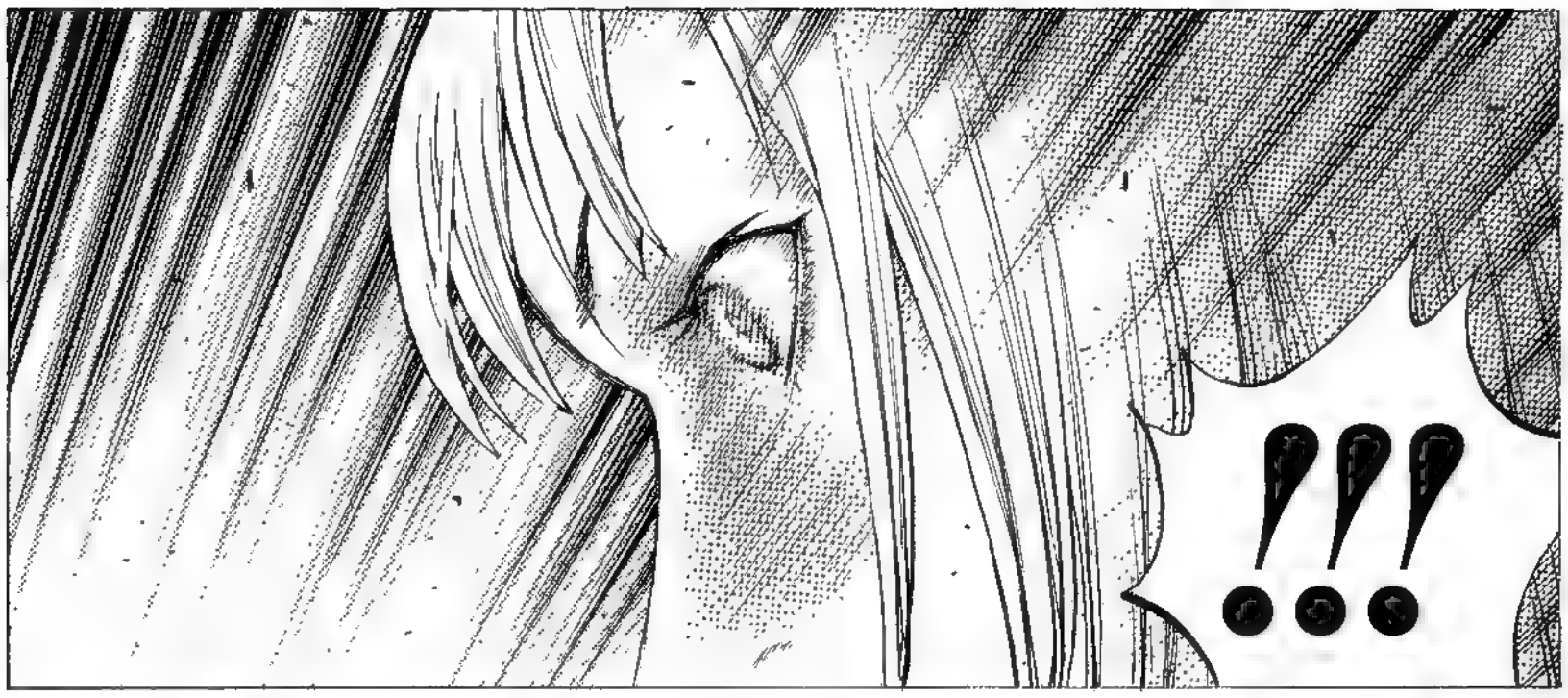
PLEASE...

BIKI

NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS, I'M HERE WITH YOU!

DON'T GIVE UP!

READ THIS WAY



クレイモア
Claymore™

Scene 47: The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 2

Scene 47: The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 2

READ THIS WAY

WHAT ... MY...

FIN-GERS ...

!

FWUP

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT FOR THE MOMENT YOU'LL STAY HUMAN.

YOU AWAK-ENED.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

!

I FELT ...

...LIKE SOME-THING PULLED ME BACK.

THUD

I LEARNED FROM EXAM-PLE.

I JUST TRIED DOING WHAT GALATEA DID TO ME.

DRIP

DRIP

MY SPIRIT IS COM-PLETELY DRAINED

I'M NOT AS GOOD AT IT AS GALATEA.

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

IF SOME-BODY TOLD ME TO DO IT AGAIN, I PROBABLY COULDN'T.

DRIP

DRIP

IT'S A MIRACLE THAT IT WORKED.

FW

OM

!

GA SHAK

GALA-TEA'S REACHED HER LIMIT!

OH NO!

ZAT

TA

WE'VE GOT TO HELP HER. CAN YOU STAND?

SHMP

!

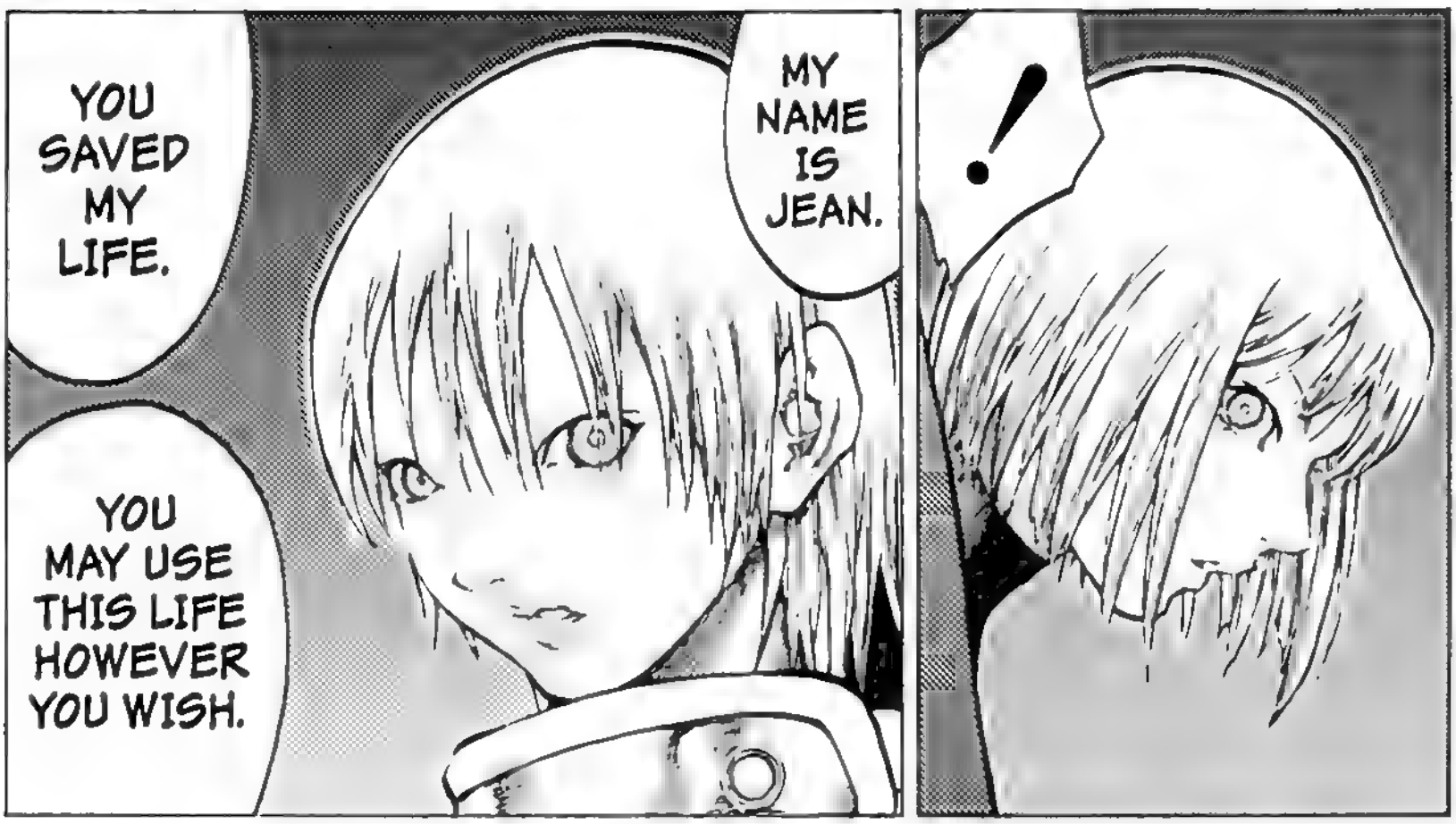
COME ON! HURRY!

I'LL AVENGE YOUR DEATHS.

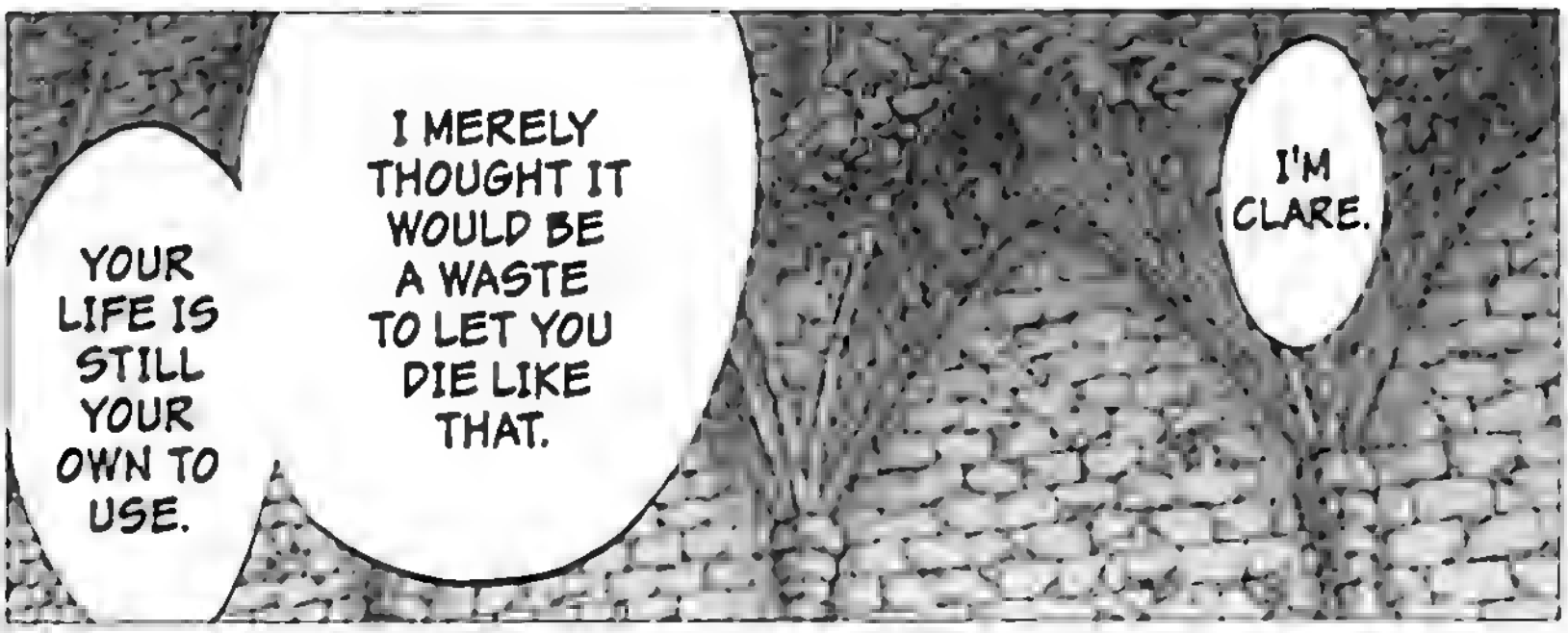
RAQUEL ... KATEA ...

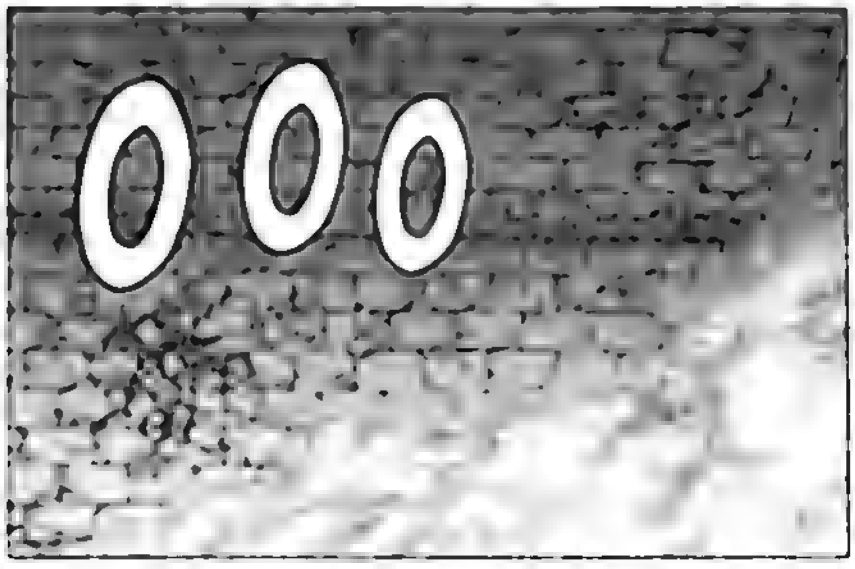
GRR...

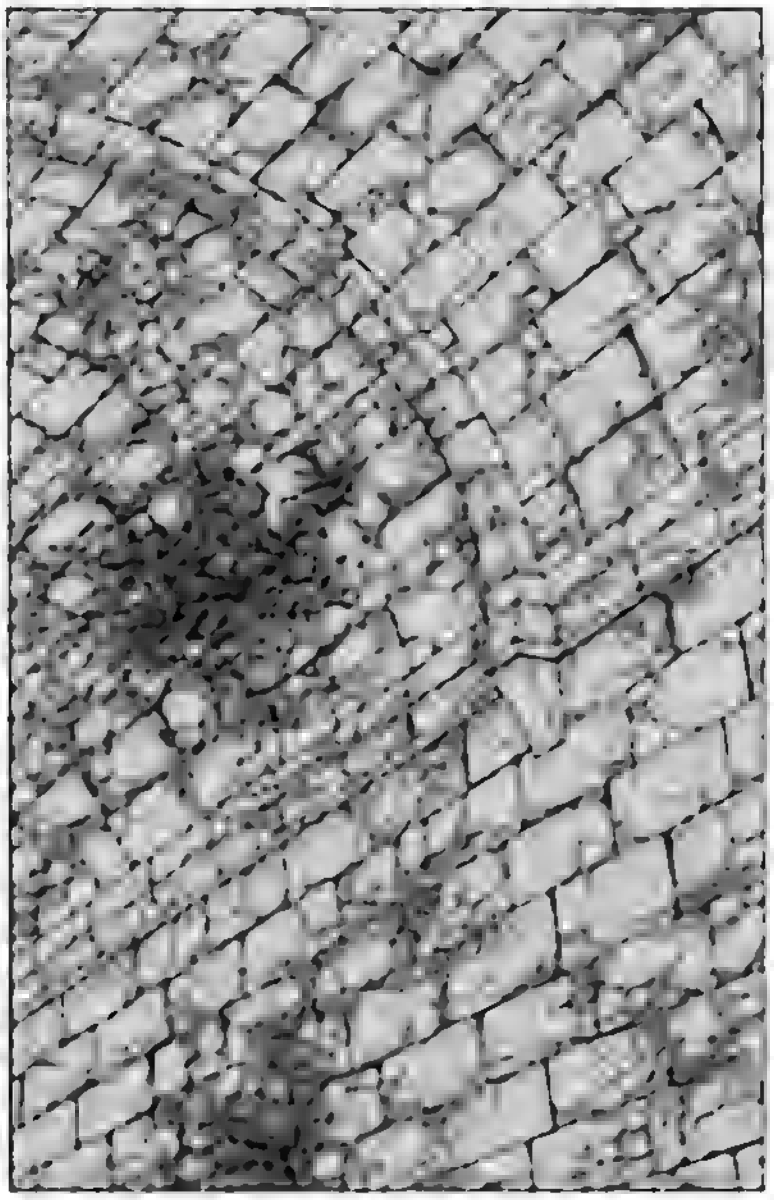
GA
SHA


YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
YOU MAY USE THIS LIFE HOWEVER YOU WISH.
MY NAME IS JEAN.
!

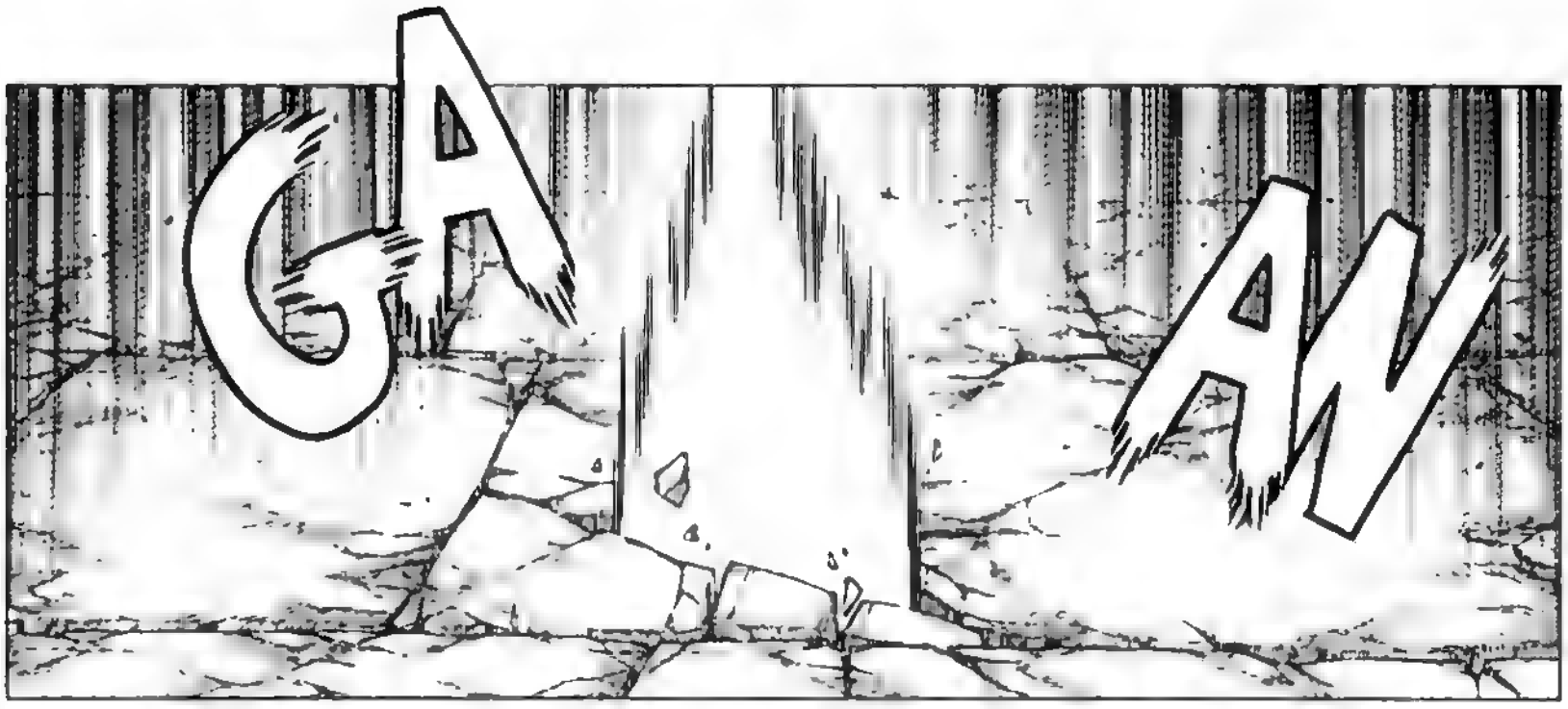
READ THIS WAY



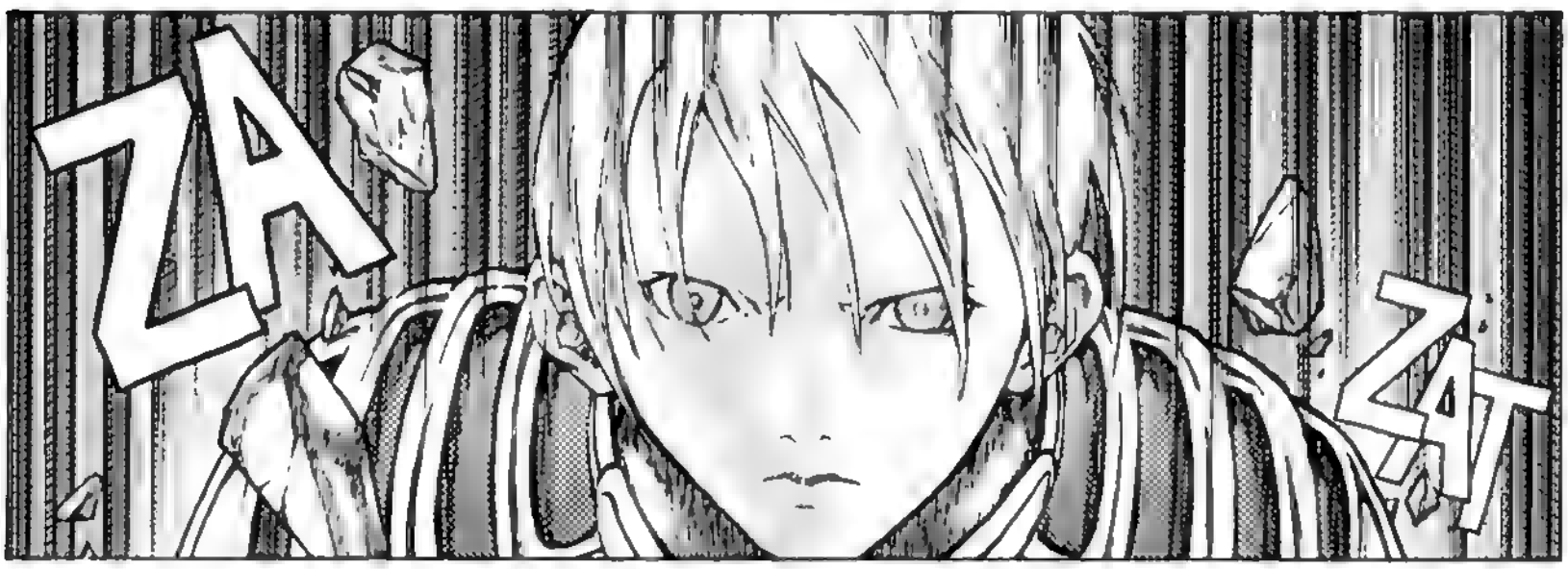




ZAT
ZAT
THEY ARE LATE.
WHERE ARE THEY?
EH?
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME SHE AWAKENED.
HELP HER OUT, DAUF.
GAH!
I CAN SEE WHY YOU'RE SO HIGHLY RANKED.
IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH ENERGY YOU CHANNEL.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
YOU'VE RELEASED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ENERGY.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALMOST ABOUT TO PASS YOUR LIMITS.
GEH!
GEH HEH HEH!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


GA
AW

DO
GA
AT


ZA
ZAT

READ THIS WAY

BABA

OH, IT'S YOU.

DIDN'T YOU AWAK-EN?

ZA

ZAT

I'VE BEEN BET-TER.

BUT I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.

ARE YOU OKAY?

!

YOU REALLY ARE A FASCINAT-ING BUNCH.

YOU EVEN BROUGHT THAT ONE BACK.

!

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SO ...

...THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD OFF ALONE.

THEY AREN'T THE KIND OF OPPO-NENTS...

!

KLANK

I CAN'T FORGET THE COMRADES I DIDN'T PRO-TECT...

I WANT TO RETALIATE WITH EVERY-THING I'VE GOT.

I'D BE GLAD TO HOLD HIM OFF WHILE YOU TWO ESCAPE.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

NUMBER 47 AND I WILL PIN THIS BIG OAF DOWN.

YOU THRUST YOUR BROAD-SWORD INTO THE BASE OF HIS THROAT!

AMONG ALL THE WARRI-ORS...

YOU'VE GOT THE FASTEST, STRONGEST THRUST.

YOU'RE PERFECT FOR THE TASK.

LET'S GO!

GOT IT, 47?

GA SHAN

YOU TAKE THE ARM WITH THE MISSING HAND...

OKAY.

DA SH

WHAT WILL HAP-PEN?

thrill thrill

NOW ...

GAH!

BA

BAM

QUICK-
SWORD!

HY

UU

DGA !!!

GAGAGA

!!

SHUP

OW!

OW OW OW!

STOP... MY WOUND ...

BO

KO

GAGAGA

BAM!

GA GA GA GA

THAT HURTS TOO!

OW!

OW!

13...

14...

15...

TWIST

TWIST

10...

11...

GRI
GA
SHAK
GRI

I CAN PUT ALL MY ENERGY INTO THIS STRIKE!
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
WITH THE MAXI-MUM NUM-BER OF TWISTS ...
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI

GUAA

KRIK

WSSH

EH!

I SEE ...

WHEN HE GETS ATTACKED BY TWO, HE LOSES CONCEN-TRATION, AND HER TECHNIQUE WORKS AGAIN.

DOGAAAA

DOGAGAGA

DOGAGAGA

GO, JEAN!

NOW!

AH!

READ THIS WAY

DO

OM

GA ...

GA ...

WSSH

GO!!

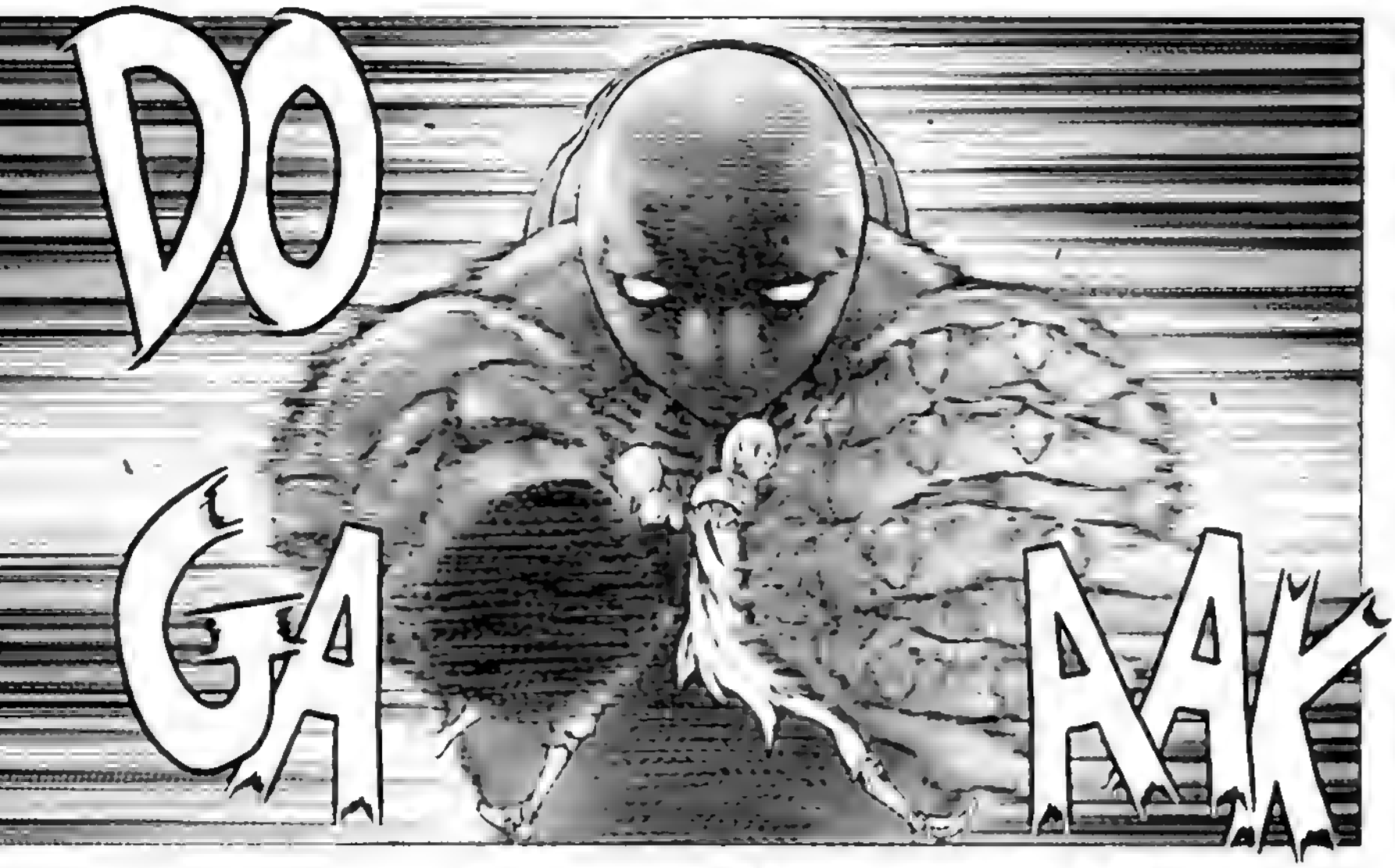
GA T

GUA!

WHAT!?

GASHA

UH!


DO
GA
AAK

UGH!
GAH!
BK!
KA
FAK
!!!

WZ

ZOK

!!!

YOU'RE HURT-ING ME!

STOP!

TCH!

DO

GA

A

AA

WSH

!!

AGH!

LOOKS LIKE...

...WE WON.

OW OW OW OW!

OW!

THAT WAS FASCI-NATING.

THE BEST SHOW I'VE SEEN IN YEARS.

OW! OW!

OW!

MY HANDS!

MY HANDS!

MY HANDS!

MY HANDS!

SO WONDER-FUL.

FRIEND-SHIP IS SO IMPOR-TANT.

I WANT FRIENDS JUST LIKE THEM.

GAH!

I'M ENJOYING THE MOMENT.

OH, BE QUIET.

MY HANDS! MY HANDS!

THEY CUT BOTH MY HANDS!

BUT... MY HANDS ...

SIGH...

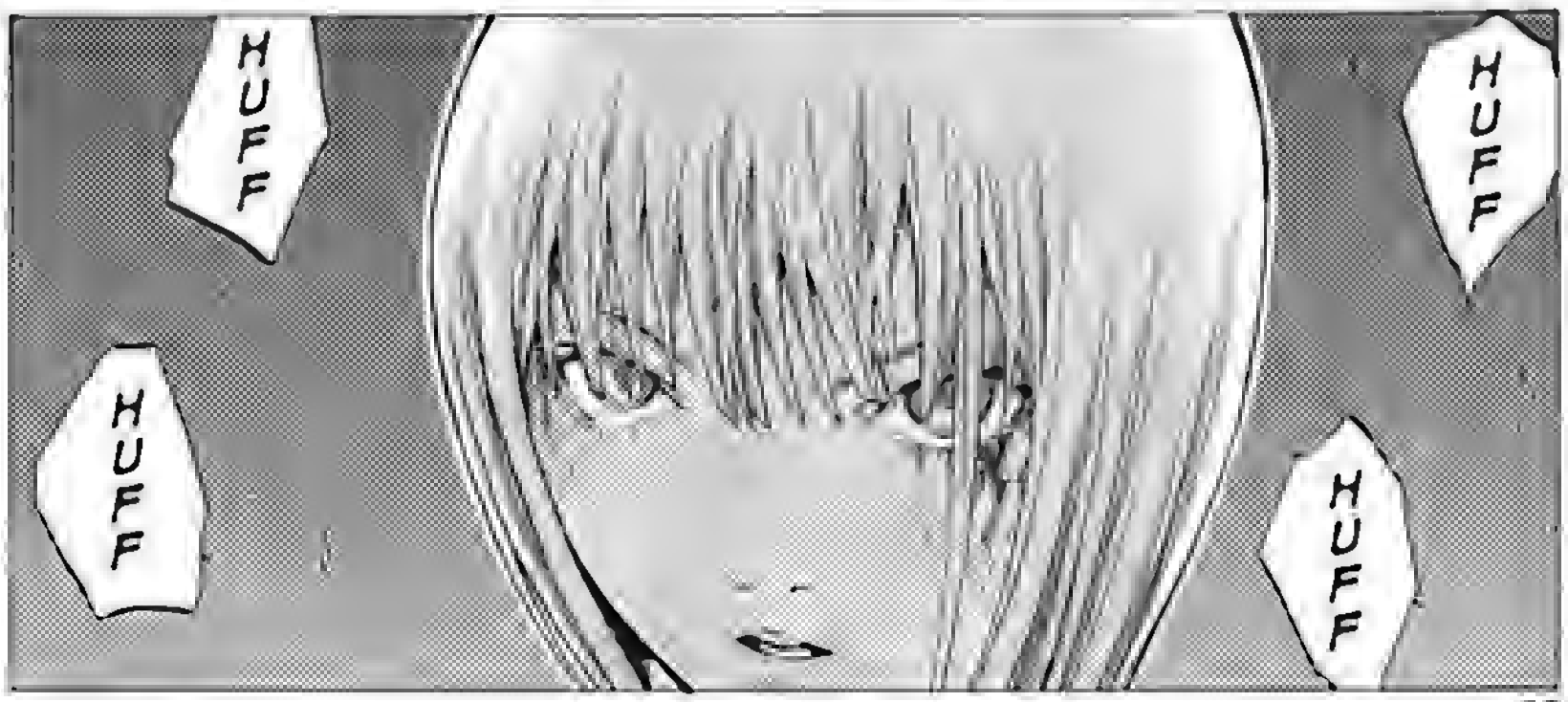
AH, WELL. YOUR ATTACK IS RIDICULOUSLY STRONG, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

YOUR REGEN-ERATION TAKES RIDICU-LOUSLY LONG.

ANYWAY, THE FIGHT IS OVER.

NOW WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE THEM AWAK-EN...

!


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

GIVE IT UP. THE BATTLE IS OVER.

HEY, ARE YOU STILL AT IT?

WE JUST WANT TO HURT YOU, AWAKEN YOU, AND MAKE FRIENDS.

GET KILLED, AND YOU'LL LOSE EVERY-THING.

WE'RE NOT OUT TO KILL YOU.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

JEAN?

ARE YOU ALIVE?

PLEASE UNDER-STAND.

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU.

HUFF

NO. IT WAS MY MIS-TAKE.

HUFF

HUFF

IF IT HAD GONE ACCORDING TO PLAN, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

YEAH...

FOR THE MOMENT.

SORRY I WASN'T MORE USEFUL.

!

I HATE TO ASK IT, BUT...

CAN YOU DO THAT THING ONE MORE TIME?

I FEEL BAD ABOUT IT, BUT I'LL HAVE TO INVOKE YOUR PROMISE FROM BEFORE.

I NEED YOU TO LEND ME YOUR LIFE.

IT'S NOT A TECHNIQUE I CAN KEEP DOING FOREVER.

BUT I THINK I CAN PULL IT OFF ONE MORE TIME.

READ THIS WAY

FROM THE START ...

GIRI

THAT'S WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

BO

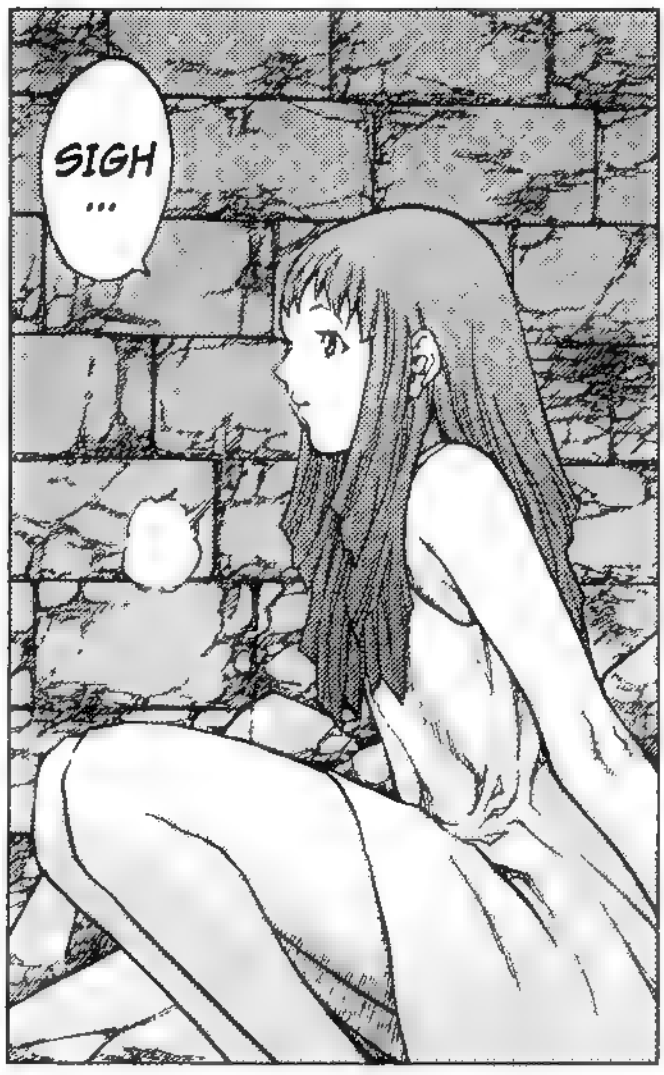
OM

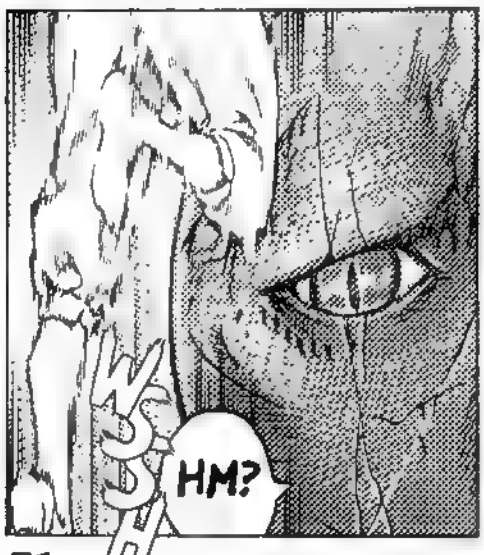
I'LL CLEAR THE PATH!

STICK YOUR CLAY-MORE IN THAT THING'S THROAT!

クレイモア
Claymore™

Scene 48: The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 3





Scene 48: The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 3

READ THIS WAY

WSSH

GRAH!

GAGAGAGA

GAH!

OW!

OW OW OW!

WSSH

THUP.

WHERE'D YA GO?

HUH?

!!

DOGAGA

!!!

YOU ...

WSSH

!!

THP

DOGAGAGA

GAH!

AH YA YA YA!

GAH!

NOW WHERE'D YA...

GRAAAH!

YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!

GUA

CHANG

TMP

WSSH

TMP TMP TMP TMP

!!

HUH?

COME DOWN HERE!

FSSH

DOGA

DO GA GA GA

OW OW OW! OW OW OW!

GA GA

READ THIS WAY

SHE'S HOLDING UP RATHER WELL.

AND CONSIDERING IT'S A BORROWED RIGHT ARM...

SHE'S USING THE NARROWNESS OF THE SPACE TO KEEP HIM FROM FOCUSING ON A TARGET, AND ATTACKING FROM MULTIPLE ANGLES.

HM... SHE'S RATHER GOOD.

GA GA GA

GA GA

IT'S INEFFICIENT. IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM IF A COMRADE ACCIDENTALLY GOT WITHIN ARM'S REACH.

THERE'S FAR TOO MUCH USELESS SWINGING AROUND.

BUT CLEARLY, SHE'S GOT A SURPLUS OF YOMA ENERGY.

IT'S LIKE THAT FULLY-AWAKENED RIGHT ARM IS THE ONE IN CONTROL.

GA GA

NOT YET ...

NOT YET ...

GA GA GA

BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI

TWI
TWI
TWI
TWI
20
...
18
...
19
...

21...

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

THE MOST I'VE EVER TWISTED IT...

BIKI

WHOSH

!

READY?

OKAY!

DO GA AA

WHAAM

GAH!

CLARE!

WHAT'S THIS ONE DOIN'?

UH!

SHE MANAGED TO TWIST UP WHILE I WASN'T LOOKIN'!

GA-SHAK

TCH!

READ THIS WAY

GRAH!

DO

BAAA

A

TAKE THAT!

!

BA

BAT

UH ...

CLARE!

GANG

GA

GA

GANG

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

READ THIS WAY

!

YOU JUST CONCENTRATE ON ONE STRONG SHOT INTO HIS THROAT.

JEAN.

LEAVE EVERY-THING ELSE TO ME.

HUFF

I PROMISE I'LL CLEAR YOU A PATH.

HUFF

TRUST ME.

HUFF

GO!

PIERCE RIGHT THROUGH HIM!

I'LL FOLLOW ANY ORDER YOU GIVE, NO MATTER HOW IMPOS-SIBLE.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE. MY LIFE IS YOURS.

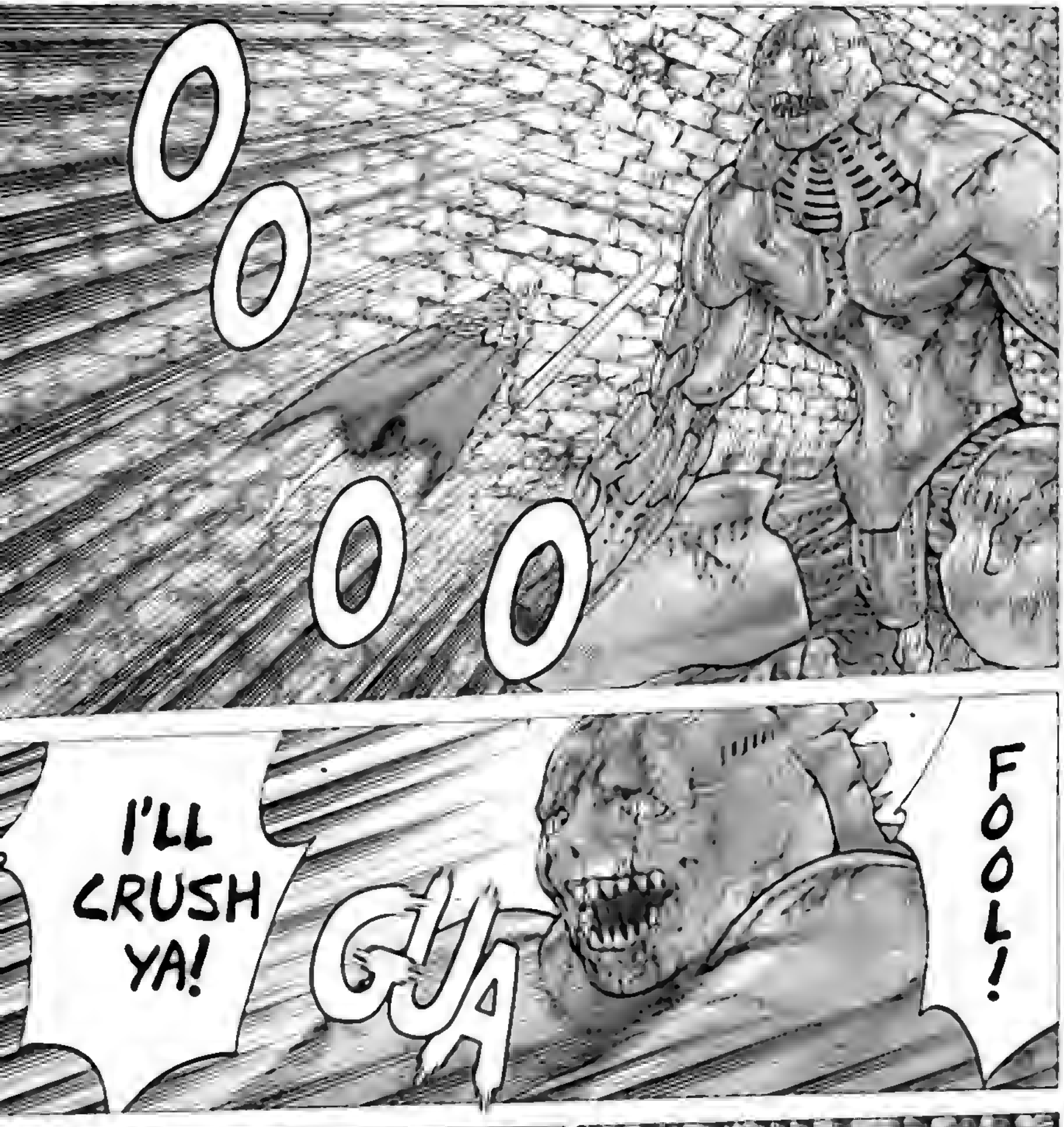
DO

ON.

GAH!

!!!!!!

!


I'LL CRUSH YA!
GUA
FOOL!

ZA AN
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI

!!!

BA

BAT

READ THIS WAY

!

...ARE YOU...

WHAT...

FOCUS YOUR WILL!

BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

READ THE FLOW OF HIS ENERGY, AND RESPOND ONLY THERE WITH THE QUICK-SWORD.

WSSSSH

GA GA GA GA

GA GA GA GA

GA GA GA GA

WHAT!?

WH...

WHAT IS THAT?

HER RAMPAGING RIGHT ARM IS AVOIDING HER COMRADE'S BODY AND ONLY STRIKING DAUF'S TWO ARMS?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

GATAN

GOAAA

!!

YOU!

BAKOT

TAKE THIS!

BA KOT

!

ULK!

ULK!

ULK!

GWAAA

GO, JEAN!

THRUST WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!

SORRY.

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS CLOSE HIS JAW.

DO
GAAA

クレイモア
Claymore™

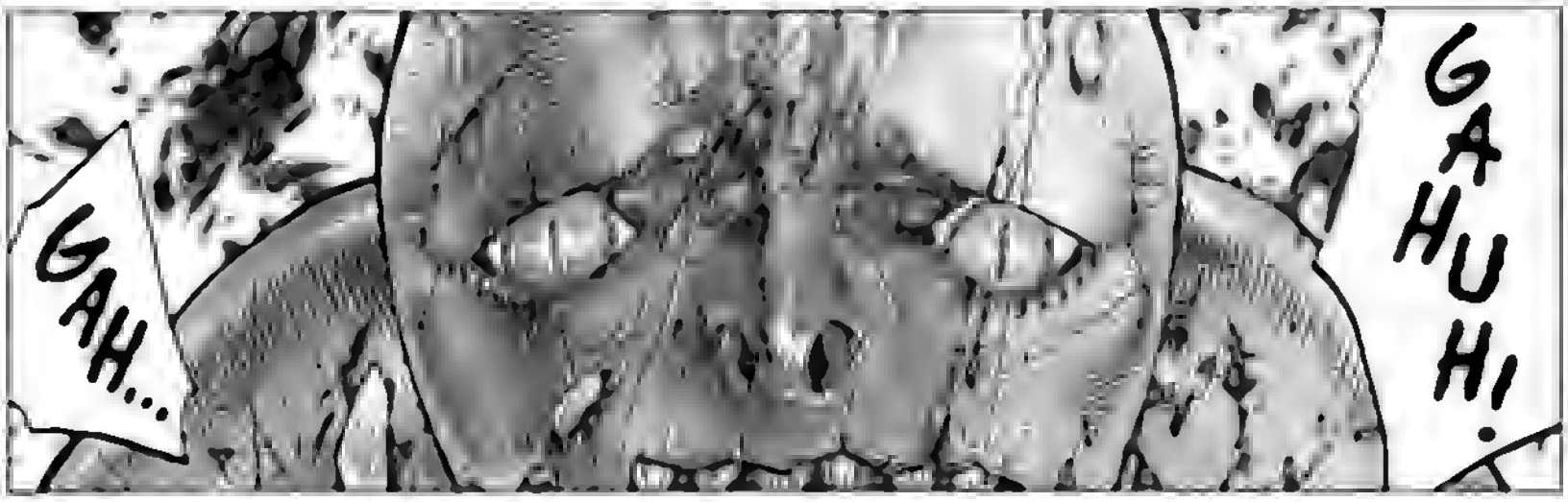
DO GA.

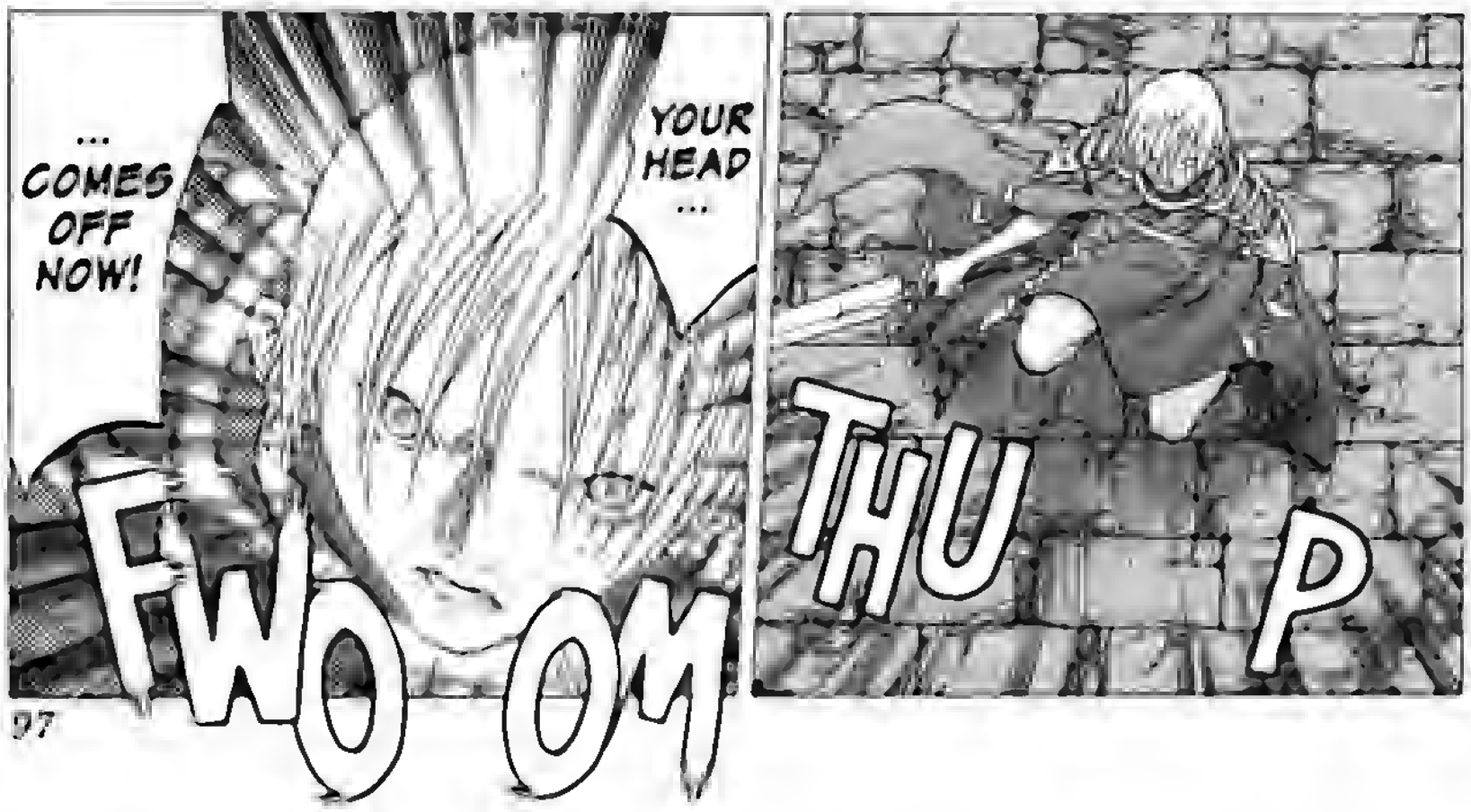
AAA

SCENE 49: THE DEEP ABYSS OF PURGATORY, PART 4

Scene 49: The Deep Abyss of Purgatory, Part 4

READ THIS WAY





GA

SHUP

!!!

!

!!

DO GAAAAA

!!

FWAP

UGH ...

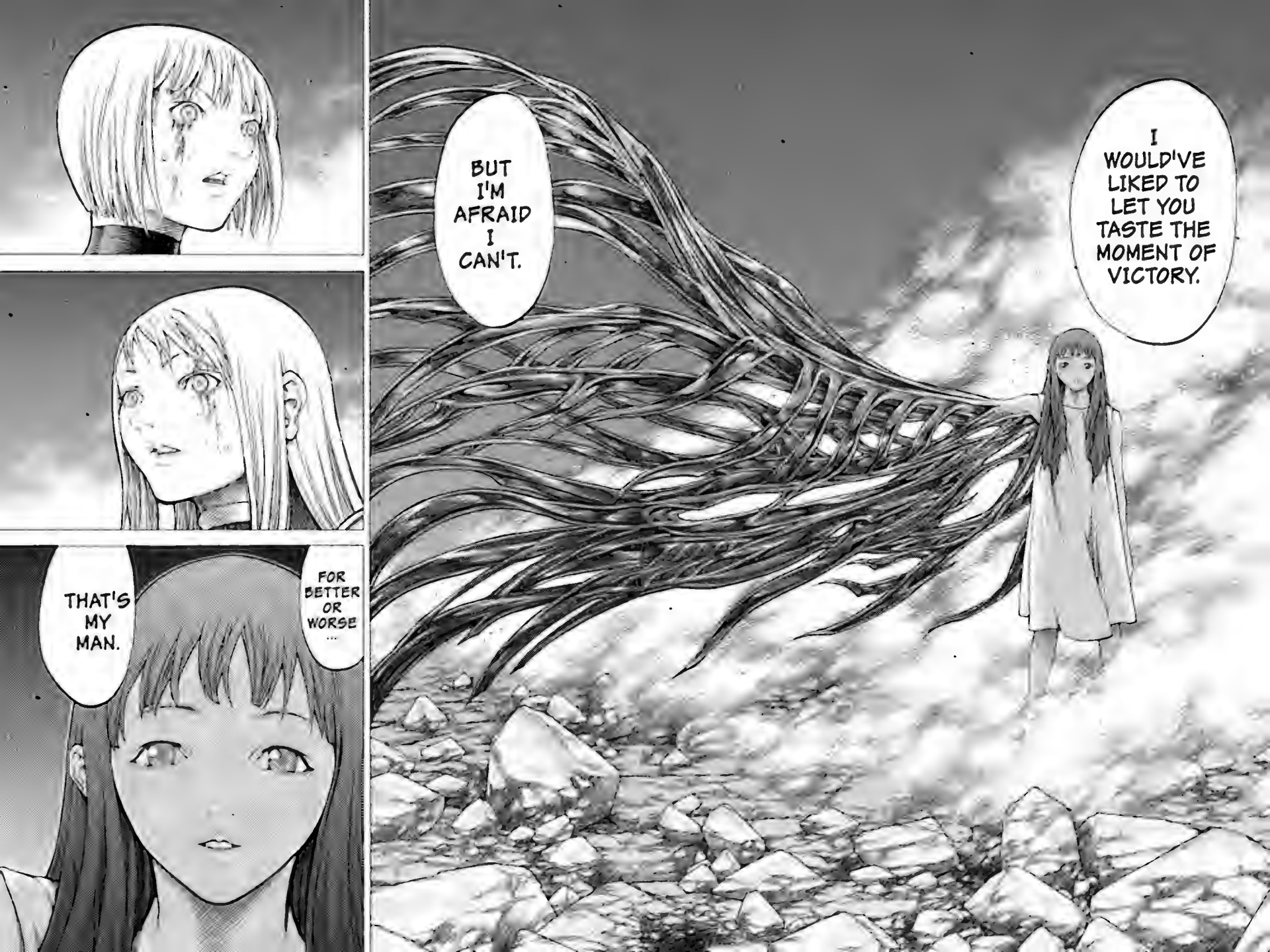
UH ...

...

JEAN!

I'M SORRY.

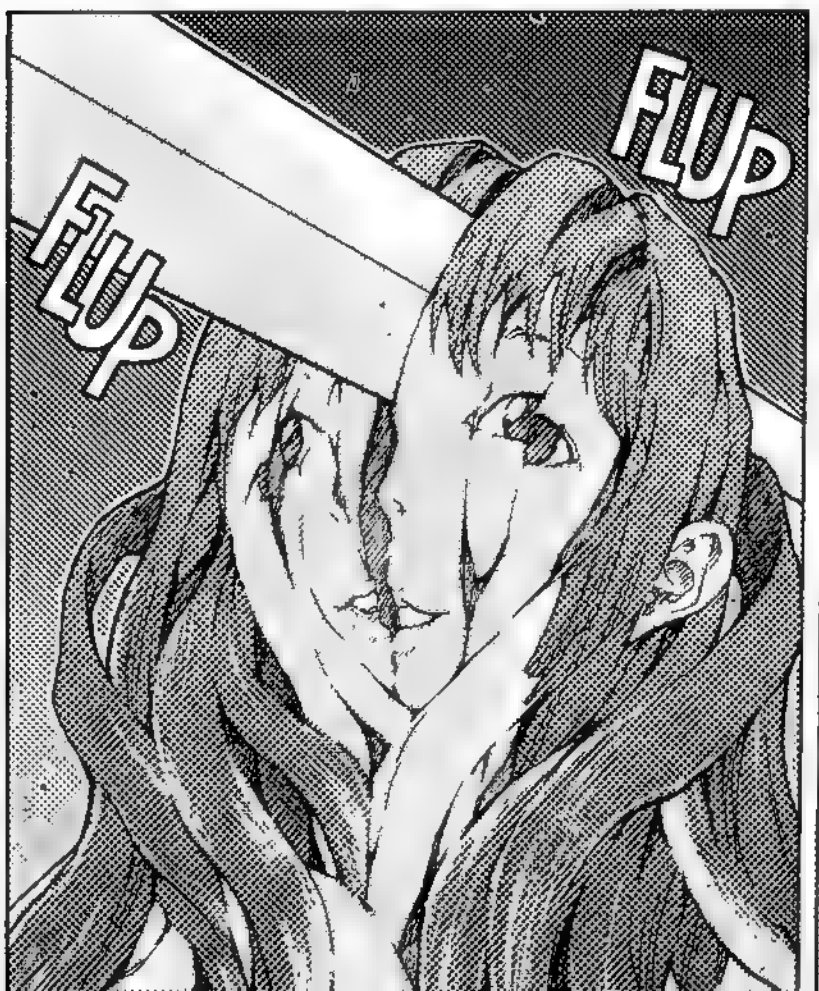
REALLY.

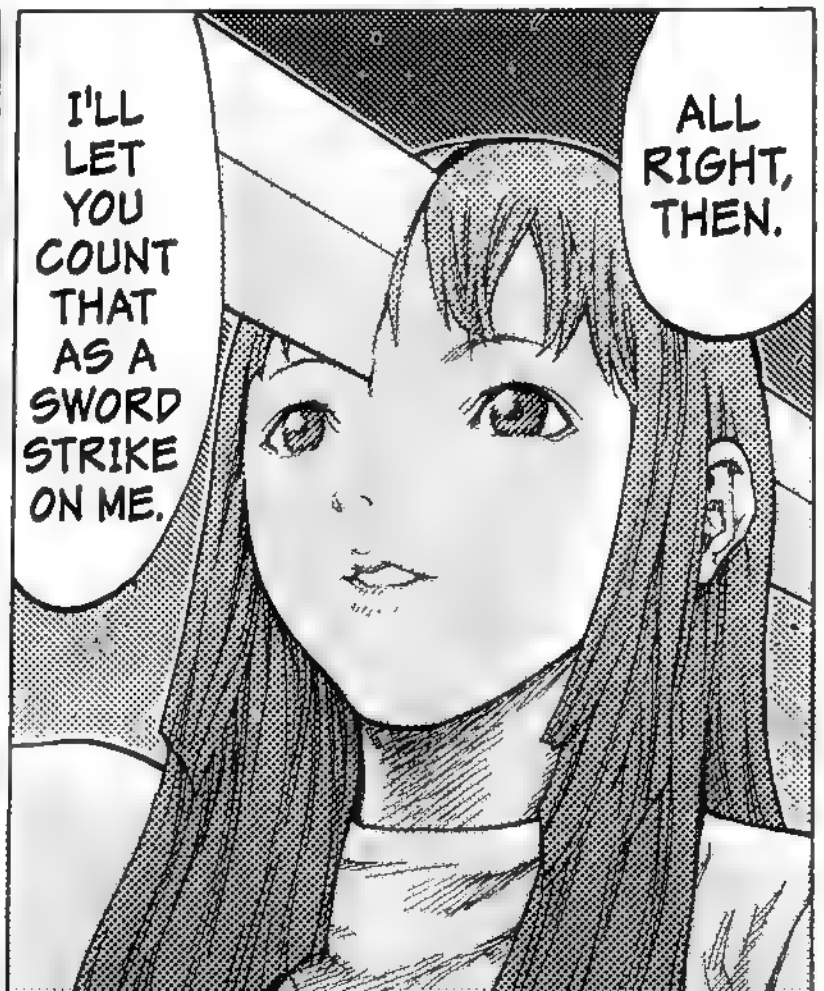

I WOULD'VE LIKED TO LET YOU TASTE THE MOMENT OF VICTORY.
BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE ...
THAT'S MY MAN.

!!
DASH
WHA
...
BA
BAT
WS
SH
47!
NO!

GASH
AAAK

!!!


FLUP
FLUP


I'LL LET YOU COUNT THAT AS A SWORD STRIKE ON ME.
ALL RIGHT, THEN.

DOBAAAAT

DO GAAA

TCH ...

WHA!?

OOO

READ THIS WAY

DO GA GA

DO GA GA

BO OM

DAMN ...

SO THIS IS THE POWER OF THE "CREATURE OF THE ABYSS."

47! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

UGH ...

I HAD WANTED TO WRAP IT ALL UP BEFORE IT CAME TO THIS.

AH...

I HATE HAVING TO REVEAL MY FULL POWERS.

I DON'T LIKE TO SHOW MY HAND.

READ THIS WAY

!?

THEY'VE MANAGED TO CREATE THE LIKES OF YOU.

AND THE ORGANI-ZATION IS SHREWD.

YOU HELD ME OFF.

AND DIDN'T BREAK, DESPITE MY EFFORTS.

OH, SORRY, DAUF. I FORGOT ABOUT YOU.

I CAN'T HAVE YOU DYING ON ME.

GAAH!

ARGH! ARGH!

AS A REWARD FOR BEATING DAUF.

I GIVE HER BACK.

!!

THUMP

RATHER THAN FORCING YOU TO AWAKEN NOW, IT WOULD BE TASTIER TO LET YOU RIPEN, AND HARVEST YOU THEN.

BESIDES, THE TWO OF YOU ALREADY HAVE ONE FOOT ON THIS SIDE OF AWAKENING.

IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL BE EVEN STRONGER AWAKENED BEINGS.

AND THEN OPEN YOUR EYES.

BEFORE YOU AWAKEN, GROW MUCH STRONGER.

READ THIS WAY

I ALMOST FORGOT.

OH...

I PROM-ISED YOU.

I SAID IF YOU COULD LAY ONE SWORD STRIKE ON ME, I'D TELL YOU THE NAME OF THE MAN OF THE NORTH.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL TELL YOU.

SINCE YOU REALLY DID GIVE IT YOUR ALL.

!

HIS NAME IS ISLEY.
HE REIGNS AS THE SILVER KING IN ALFONS, THE NORTHERN LAND LOCKED IN SNOW AND ICE.

THE NORTH-ERN LAND OF ALFONS ...

ISLEY...

IF YOU WANT TO BEAT HIM, *JOIN ME* AS AN ALLY.

IT'S THE FAST-EST... THE *ONLY* WAY.

LET ME TELL YOU... DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN DEFEAT HIM JUST BECAUSE YOU BEAT DAUF.

HE'S NOT AT ALL AS KIND AS I AM.

READ THIS WAY

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.

I AWAIT YOU.

WSSH

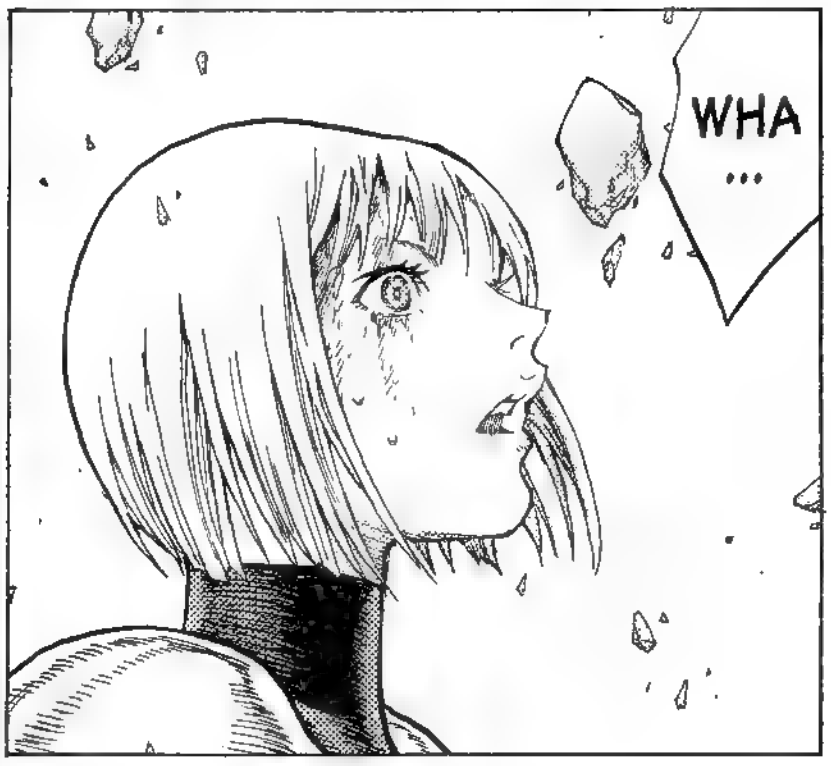
BIKI

BIKI

BIKI

YO OM

A CREA-TURE THAT HUGE...
YET SHE JUST VAN-ISHED ...


WHA ...

READ THIS WAY

...

KA THUD

CLA NK

EVERY-THING IS STILL SO DAMN FAR...

SO DAMN FAR...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

NOW TO RETURN TO MY ORIGINAL DUTY.

!

WELL... THAT NUISANCE IS OUT OF THE WAY.

DEAD OR ALIVE... IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

TMP

NUMBER 47, I'VE BEEN TOLD TO BRING YOU BACK TO THE ORGANIZATION.

!

!

!!

READ THIS WAY

IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU CAME QUIETLY.

IF NOT, I'LL CARRY YOUR CORPSE BACK TO THE ORGANI-ZATION.

WHAT SHALL IT BE?

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THEM NOW.

I HAVE A MATTER OF HIGHER PRIORITY FIRST.

SO THEN YOU'RE CHOOSING TO RETURN DEAD.

IS THAT IT?

THUP

!

IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED THAT MY LIFE IS HERS TO USE.

SORRY, BUT SHE SALVAGED MY LIFE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...

JEAN?

DO YOU WISH TO DIE AS WELL, JEAN?

THAT IS BETRAY-ING THE ORGANI-ZATION.

...IS ONLY LACKING A FUNERAL. I DON'T PLAN TO LIVE ON.

A LIFE THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN LOST ONCE ...

READ THIS WAY

HMPH.

SHU

MP

!

THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD SURVIVE A BATTLE WITH A CREATURE OF THE ABYSS.

LOWLY ONES LIKE YOU TWO...

LET'S JUST SAY I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE LOOKING FOR THEM.

KA

CHAN

THAT CREATURE MUST HAVE TORN YOUR CORPSES TO SHREDS.

BOTH OF US?

YOU'RE LETTING US GO?

MY EARS DON'T HEAR THE THANKS OF THE DEAD.

HMPH.

I'M GRATE-FUL, GALATEA.

THANK YOU.

TMP

TMP

TMP

READ THIS WAY

JUST TRY TO STAY ALIVE UNTIL THEN.

THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL BE FRIENDS OR ENEMIES.

WE'LL MEET AGAIN, GALATEA.

WE PROM-ISE.

WELL? THINK YOU CAN BEAT HER?
THAT WAS RIFUL JUST NOW.

AND I WOULD BE KILLED.
I ESTIMATE SHE'D PROBABLY RECEIVE ABOUT 50 PERCENT DAMAGE.

SO NOT QUITE YET, EH?
I SEE ...

AT THIS POINT, IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE AN EVALU-ATION, BUT...
I COULD ONLY CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE OUTER LAYER OF HER STRENGTH.

BUT IT WILL ALSO DOUBLE THE STRAIN ON YOUR BODY, I THINK.

IT WILL RAISE BOTH YOUR SPEED AND POWER BY 30 PERCENT.

I UNDER-STAND THAT IT WILL BE DOUBLE THE STRAIN.

YES, SIR.

GA TAK

LET'S GO BACK.

TIME FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF TRAINING.

ALICIA.

YOU WILL BE THE STRONGEST IN HISTORY ...

クレイモア
Claymore™

FALL BACK!

FALL BACK!

FALL BACK!

SCENE 50: THE BATTLE OF THE NORTH, PART 1

HUH!?

KATE IS DOWN!

EVA!

LUCIA!

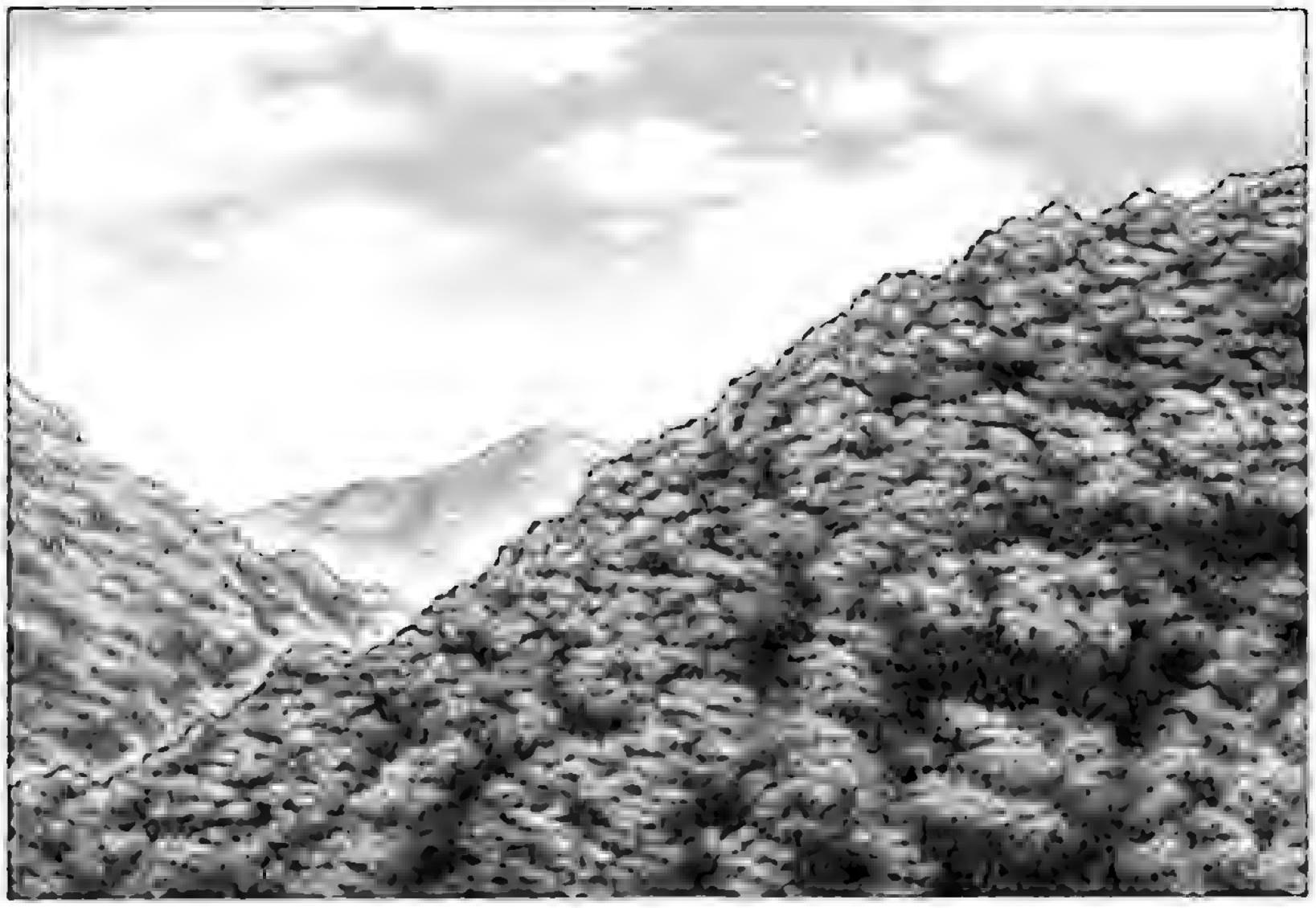
DO GA GA

WHA ... WHAT ...

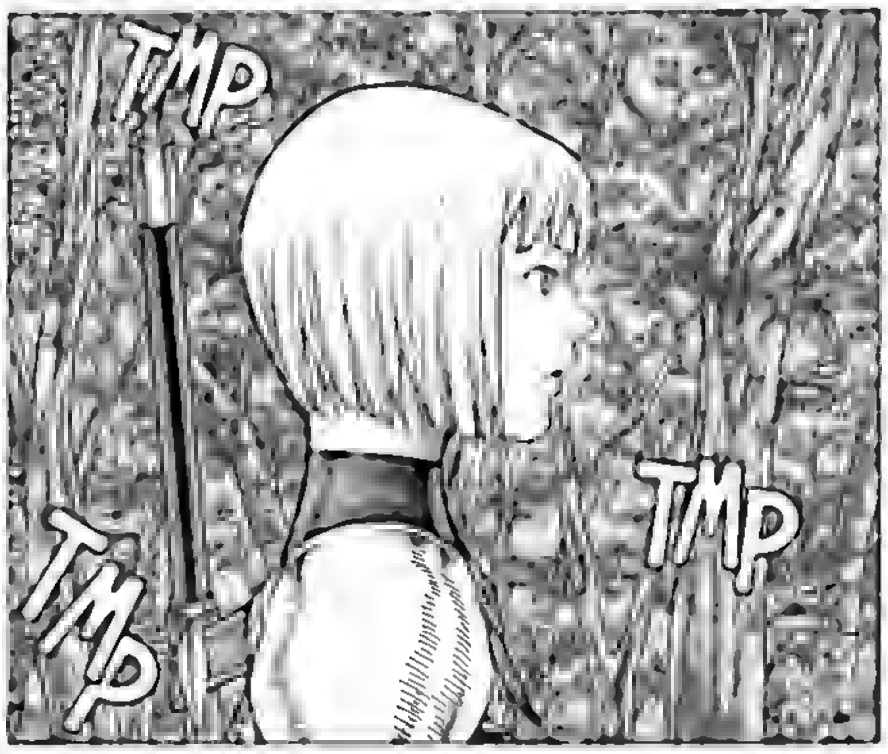
WHAT THE...

BA BA BA

Scene 50: The Battle of the North, Part 1



GA
SHAK


TMP
TMP
TMP

READ THIS WAY

ZAT

...ARE YOU GOING TO FOL-LOW?

HOW LONG ...

AS I SAID BEFORE, MY LIFE IS YOURS.

AT LEAST UNTIL I PAY YOU BACK IN FULL, I DON'T PLAN TO LEAVE YOUR SIDE.

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.

IN OUR LINE OF WORK, HELPING EACH OTHER GOES WITHOUT SAYING.

WSSH

WHAT?

YOU'VE ALREADY PAID ME BACK IN FULL.

DO GA

AAA

KA KRA K

KRA K CHANG

THAT'S HOW WE'RE EVEN.

I GAINED THAT FROM YOU.

WHAT?

THAT WAS QUITE AMAZ-ING.

YOU CAN FREELY STRIKE OR AVOID WHATEVER OBJECTS YOU CHOOSE.

I DIDN'T THINK THE TECHNIQUE HAD SUCH POSSIBILITIES.

I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CONCEPT OF BEING ABLE TO CONTROL IT.

BEFORE, I NEVER IMAGINED I COULD CONTROL MY QUICK-SWORD THAT WAY.

EVEN THOUGH YOUR BODY HAD AWAKENED, YOUR HUMAN WILL STOPPED IT. I SAW SOMETHING I NEVER BELIEVED POSSIBLE.

BUT BACK IN THAT DUNGEON, WHEN I SAW YOU TRANSFORMED LIKE THAT, MY THINKING CHANGED COMPLETELY.

I THREW AWAY THE FIXED IDEA THAT I COULDN'T CONTROL THE QUICK-SWORD, AND TRIED TO CONTROL IT WITH MY STRENGTH OF WILL.

IT MADE ME WANT TO BE THE SAME.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT MADE ME UNDERSTAND THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE HUMAN WILL IS A MIGHTY POWER.

IT WAS A SHOCK TO ME.

READ THIS WAY

I HAVEN'T PERFECTED IT YET, BUT YOU PUT ME ON THE RIGHT PATH.

THAT'S HOW I LEARNED A CONTROLLED QUICK-SWORD THAT COULD REACT TO YOMA ENERGY.

!!

BABAP

!

BAP

GA SHAK

!

BUT THERE ARE TWO OF YOU.

AT LEAST I FOUND YOU...

WHICH OF YOU IS CLARE?

NO ...

IT CAN'T BE.

I DIDN'T SENSE ANY AURA.

NUM-BER 5.

RAFAELA.

!

ZAT

SUR-PRISED, AREN'T YOU?

RUBEL!

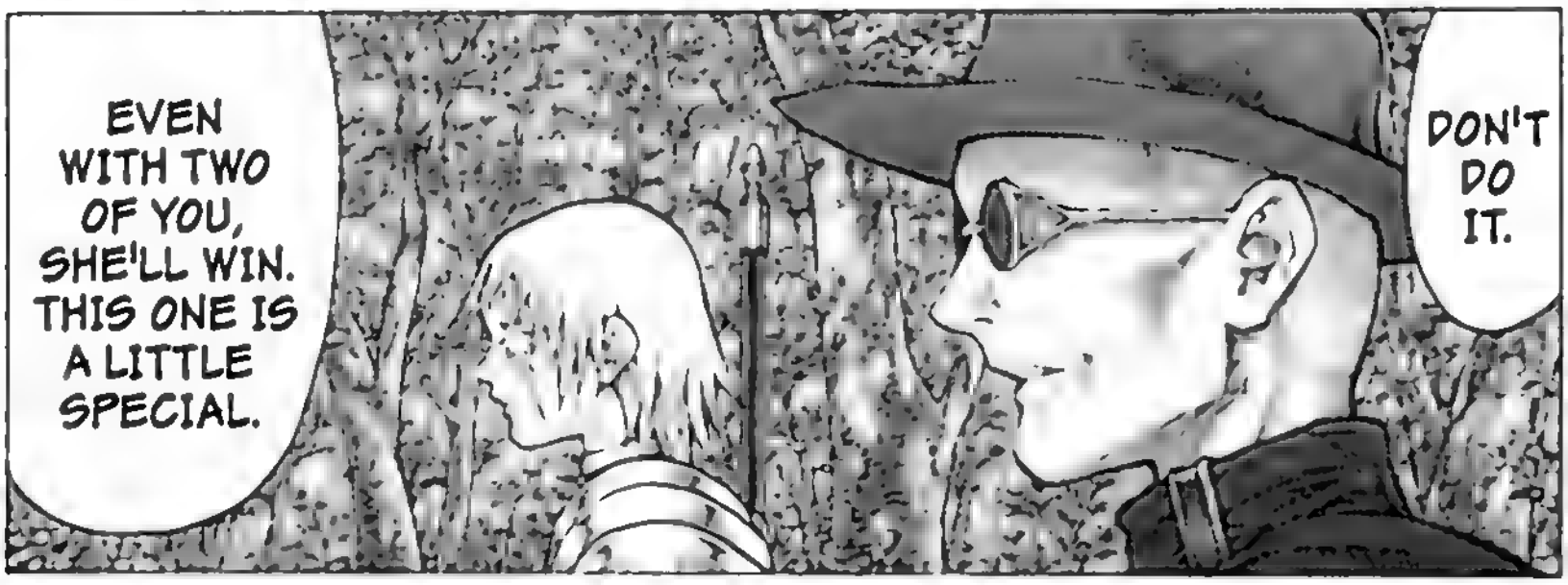
OF ALL THE WARRIORS, THIS ONE IS MOST SKILLED AT EXTIN-GUISHING HER AURA.

IT'S PERFECT FOR COVERT ACTIVI-TIES.

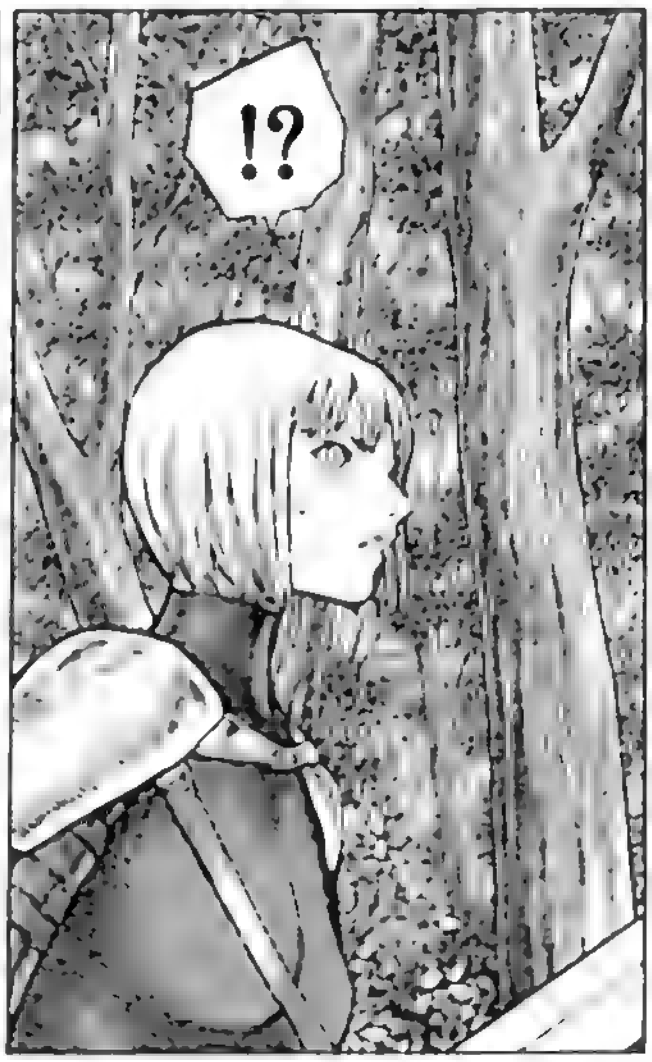
WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY EXTIN-GUISHED.

THIS IS JUST THE RESULT OF BATTLING FOR MANY YEARS WITHOUT RELEASING HER ENERGY.

GA
SHAK


EVEN WITH TWO OF YOU, SHE'LL WIN. THIS ONE IS A LITTLE SPECIAL.
DON'T DO IT.

WHY DID SHE...
GALA-TEA ...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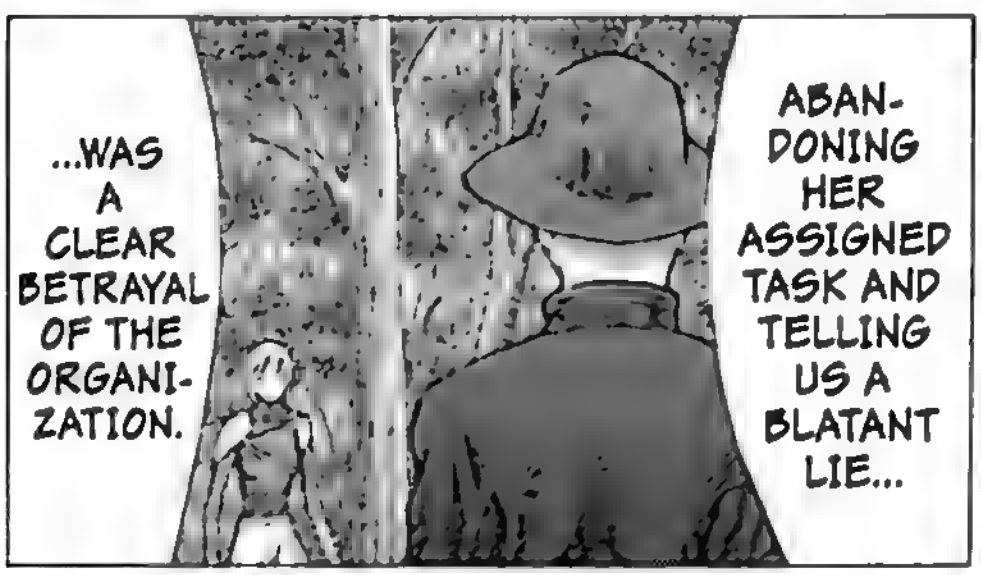

...WAS A CLEAR BETRAYAL OF THE ORGANI-ZATION.
ABAN-DONING HER ASSIGNED TASK AND TELLING US A BLATANT LIE...

READ THIS WAY

ACK ...

!

HER HEAD CAME OFF.

RIGHT AFTER SHE MADE HER REPORT ...

HER LIFE WAS SPARED.

AND SHE HAS HAD A GOOD RECORD UP TO NOW.

OR RATHER, THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, BUT SHE IS A PARTICULARLY USEFUL GIRL AS SHE IS.

BUT SHE CAN FEEL GRATE-FUL THAT SHE'S ALIVE.

FOR THE NEXT LITTLE WHILE, SHE'LL BE ASSIGNED SOME RATHER NASTY TASKS

...YOU'VE COME TO TAKE *OUR* HEADS, EH?

AND NOW ...

IF YOU ACCOMPLISH THE NEXT TASK, THE ORGANI-ZATION WILL EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO GIVE YOU A SPECIAL PARDON.

OH, NO. EVEN WHILE YOU WERE A FUGITIVE, YOU AIDED YOUR COM-RADES.

!!

!

YOUR JOB WILL BE TO WIPE OUT THESE AWAK-ENED ONES.

A GROUP OF AWAKENED ONES HAVE APPEARED IN THE NORTH. NUMBER 7 AND SOME BELOW HER HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES.

TASK ...

WHAT TASK?

READ THIS WAY

YOU'LL BE AMONG THEM.

OF COURSE, IT WON'T BE JUST THE TWO OF YOU. WE'VE DECIDED TO SEND AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF TROOPS.

...

EVEN IF THEY HAVE TO CLOSE THEIR EYES TO A FEW THINGS, THEY WANT TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR BATTLE STRENGTH.

WELL, TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST, THE ORGANIZATION IS A LITTLE SHORTHANDED.

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT ANYTIME WE FEEL LIKE IT, WE CAN HUNT YOU DOWN AND TAKE YOUR HEAD OFF.

PAT

WELL, DON'T TAKE TOO LONG TO DECIDE.

I THINK YOUR CHOICE IS CLEAR.

ONE MORE THING I FORGOT TO TELL YOU.

...

OH, BY THE WAY ...

EVERYTHING SO FAR WILL BE FORGIVEN, AND YOU CAN RETURN TO THE ORGANIZATION. IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY YOU CAN'T MISS.

HE WAS CAUGHT BY A SLAVE TRADER AND SENT TO THE LANDS OF THE NORTH.

THAT YOUNG FELLOW YOU WERE DRAG-GING AROUND.

THEN IT'S A LUCKY COINCI-DENCE THAT THE LANDS OF THE NORTH ARE JUST WHERE YOU'RE HEADED.

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF TRYING TO MEET HIM AGAIN...

!!

IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT ON THIS CONTINENT, THE ORPHAN BOYS ARE SENT NORTH AND THE ORPHAN GIRLS ARE SENT EAST. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW THAT.

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.

RUBEL...

DID YOU ...

READ THIS WAY

IT SEEMS THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS SHORT-HANDED.

IN THE LANDS OF THE NORTH AND LANDS OF THE EAST...

GRR ...

IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING, IT'S EITHER SURVIVE BY YOUR OWN POWER OR DO NOTHING AND SIMPLY DIE. THOSE ARE THE ONLY TWO CHOICES.

THERE AREN'T A LOT OF ALTERNA-TIVES.

WSOOO
A BUNCH OF SILVER-EYED WITCHES.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CLAYMORES.
CRUNCH
WOOOO
H-HEY...
WHAT ... WHAT THE HELL ...

ZA
T

READ THIS WAY

SO THIS IS THE FIRST TOWN... PIETA.

THE NORTHERN COUNTRY OF ALFONS.

JEAN.

THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU... YOU DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW ME ANYMORE.

!

YOU'VE ALREADY REPAID YOUR DEBT TO ME.

GLINT

HMPH. STUB-BORN AS...

!!

WSSH

AND WHEN I RETURNED TO THE ORGANI-ZATION, THIS IS THE JOB I WAS ASSIGNED.

EITHER WAY IT'S THE SAME.

THAT WAS HARDLY A REPAY-MENT.

CLANG

LONG TIME NO SEE, CLARE!

BWA HA HA HA! SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!

!!

READ THIS WAY

HELEN...

WSSH

ZA ZA UMP!

WMP

SHHP

KASH ANG

BEST NOT STICK YOUR NOSE IN.

IT'S JUST A GREETING BETWEEN SOME OLD FRIENDS.

!!

READ THIS WAY

GUPRR

DENEVE!

GA

CHANG

!!

IT'S STILL A RUDE WAY TO GREET HER.

EVEN AN OLD FRIEND DESERVES SOME RESPECT.

WHAT'S UP, CLARE? LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HOOKED UP WITH ANOTHER BLOCK-HEAD.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M NUMBER 22. AND SHE'S 15. WHAT NUMBER ARE YOU?

HEH HEH HEH.

MY NAME IS JEAN.

I'M NUMBER 9.

YOU'RE... YOU'RE A SINGLE DIGIT?

SO WHY DOES IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE FOLLOW-ING *CLARE* AROUND?

READ THIS WAY

THAT'S THE LOWEST RANK THERE IS! THE LOWEST!

WHY'S A SINGLE DIGIT FOLLOWING AROUND THE LOWEST RANK!?

HEY, DON'T YOU GET IT? I TOLD YOU... CLARE'S ONLY NUMBER 47!

SO MY LIFE IS HERS.

CLARE SAVED MY LIFE.

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH RANK?

I OWE CLARE MY LIFE.

I EXPECTED THE SINGLE DIGITS TO ALL BE ARROGANT, BUT I GUESS THAT'S NOT THE CASE.

WELL, WELL ...

HMPH.

NO...I MYSELF SAID TOO MUCH.

IT WASN'T THE KIND OF THING TO SAY TO A COMRADE FIGHTING ON THE SAME SIDE.

PLEASE FOR-GIVE ME.

MY NAME IS DENEVE ... NUMBER 15.

SORRY ABOUT BEFORE.

HELEN DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT. PLEASE BELIEVE THAT.

HM?

HM?

GASHAA

WOW... GUESS I FEEL A LITTLE SILLY NOW.

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE A TROUBLE-MAKER?

hee hee

UH... I'M HELEN.

NUM-BER 22.

SORRY ABOUT THAT THING BEFORE, JEAN.

READ THIS WAY

LOOK. THAT'S NUMBER 8.

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE A BUNCH OF SINGLE DIGITS ALL AT ONCE.

EVERY-ONE GATHER UP, PLEASE.

I'LL EXPLAIN TO YOU OUR BATTLE PLAN.

I'M FLORA, NUMBER 8 IN THE ORGANI-ZATION.

IF MORE THAN TWO SINGLE DIGITS ARE HERE, IS THE SMALLEST NUMBER THE LEADER?

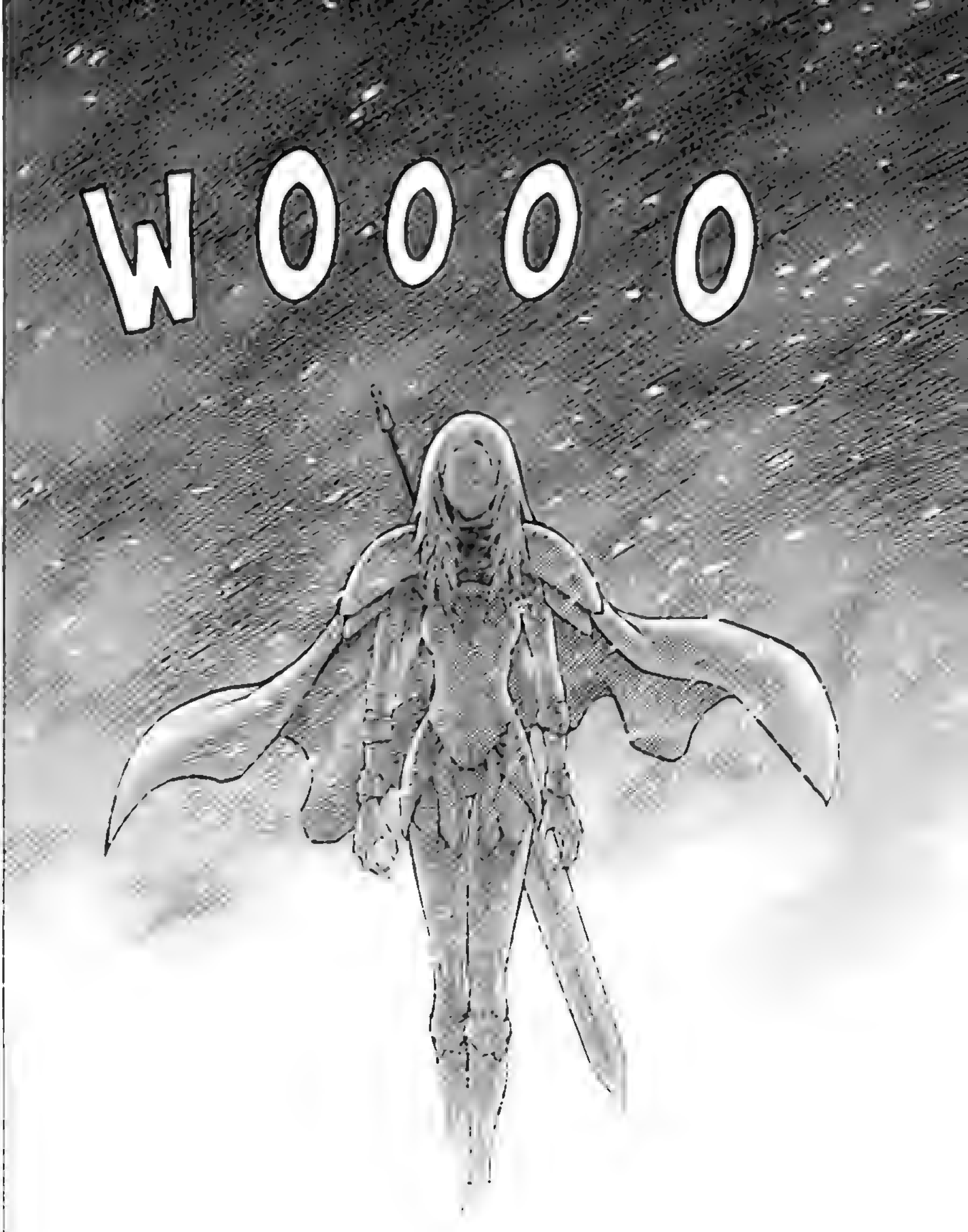
!

MAY WE ASSUME THAT YOU'RE THE LEADER THIS TIME?

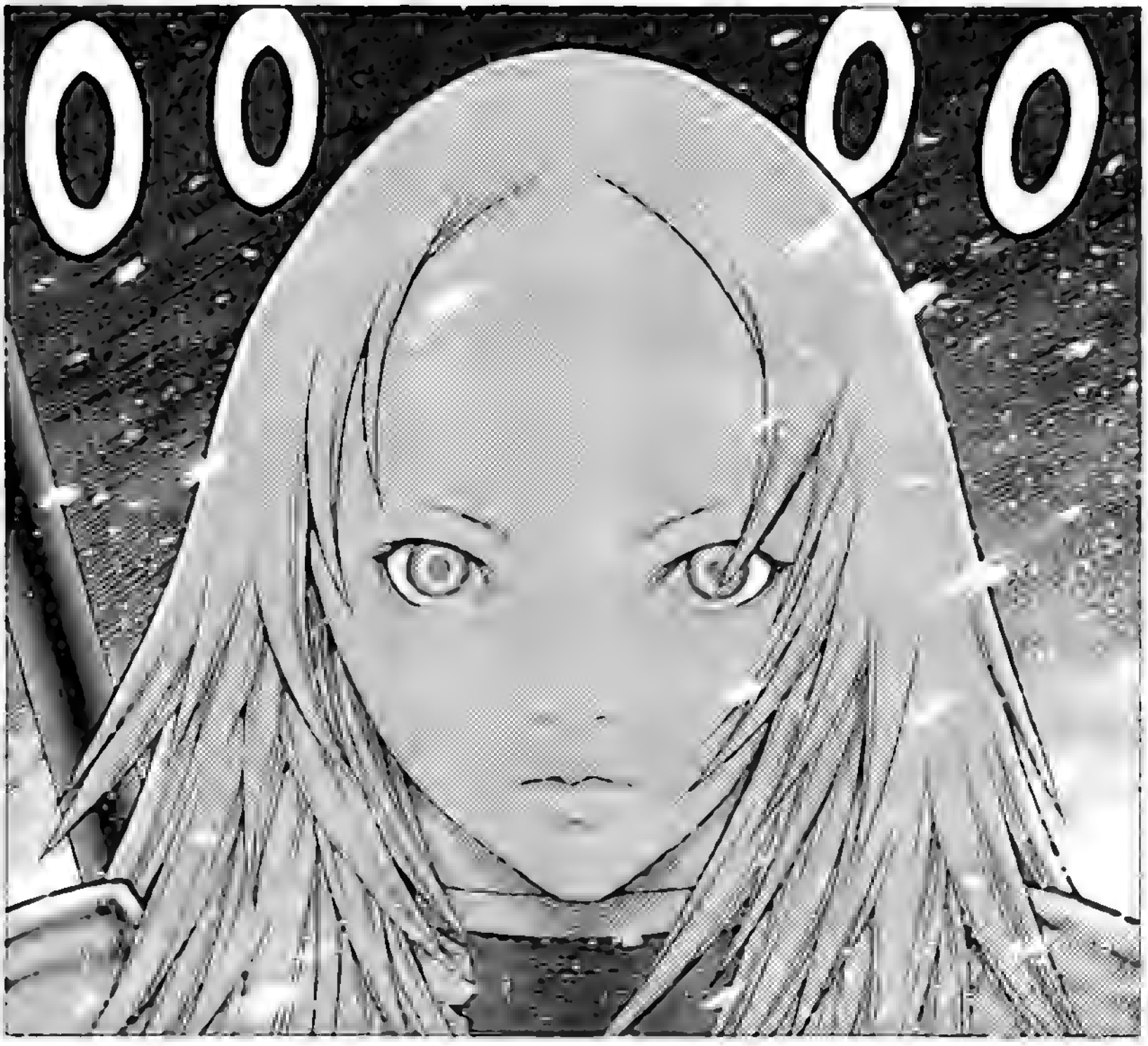
NO. THERE'S AN EVEN LOWER NUMBER HERE THAN ME.

SHE'LL BE THE LEADER.

HUH?

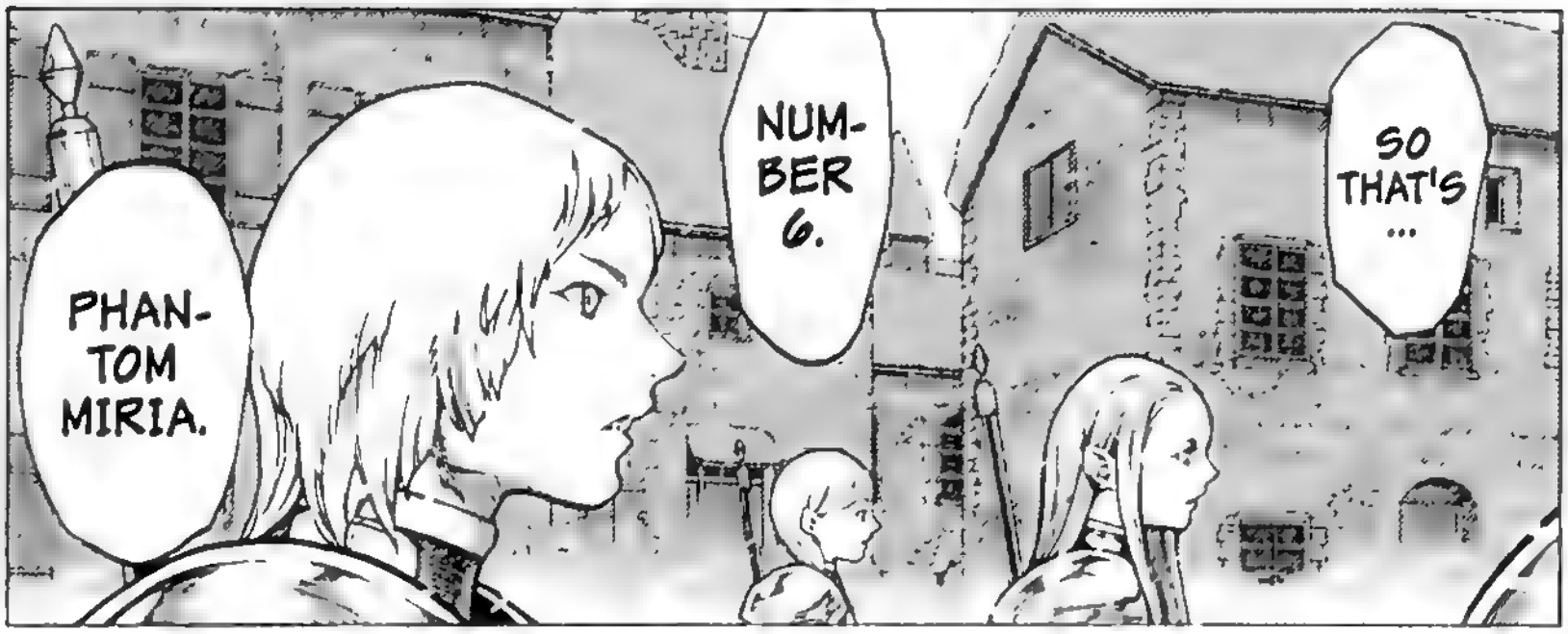

WOOOO

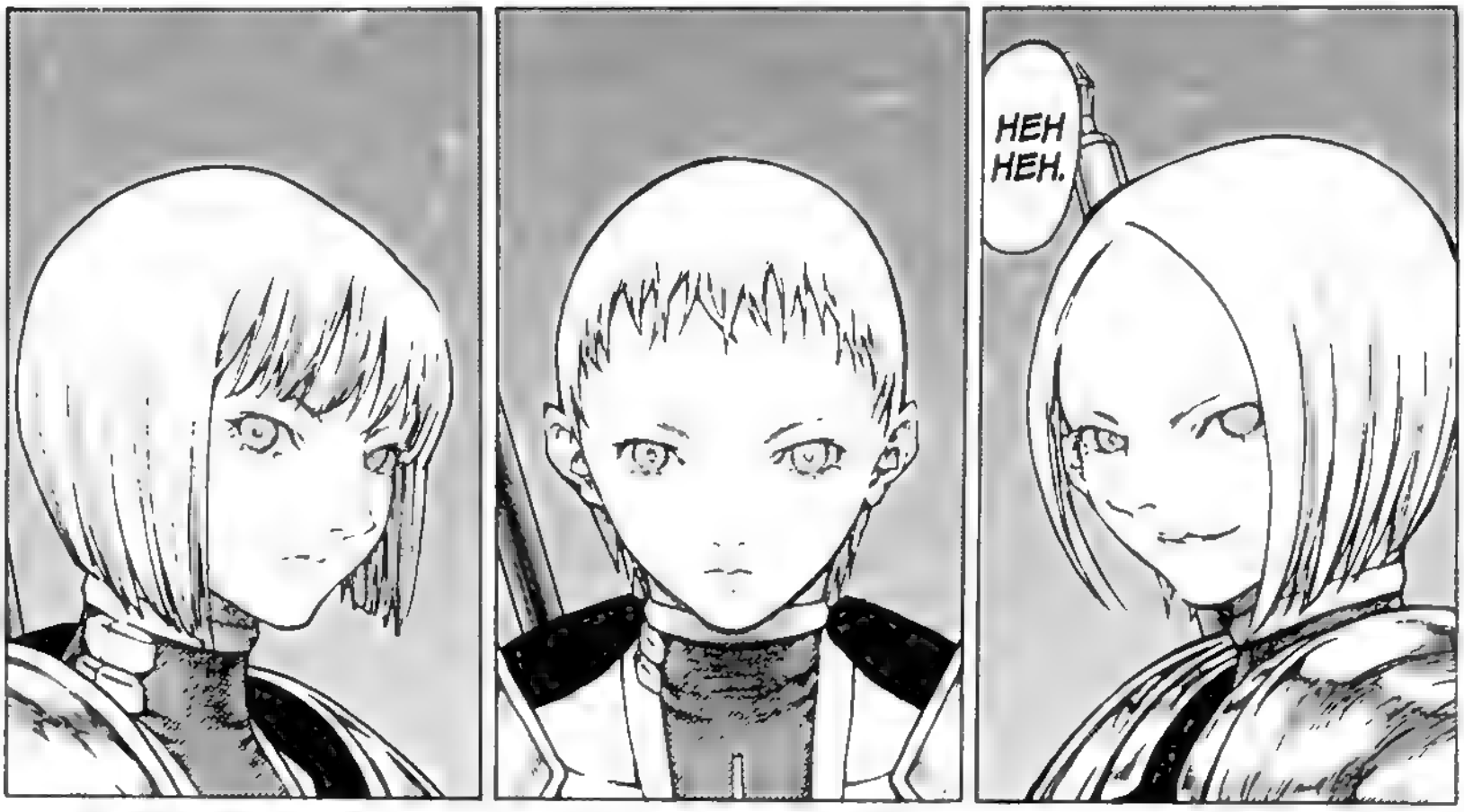
READ THIS WAY

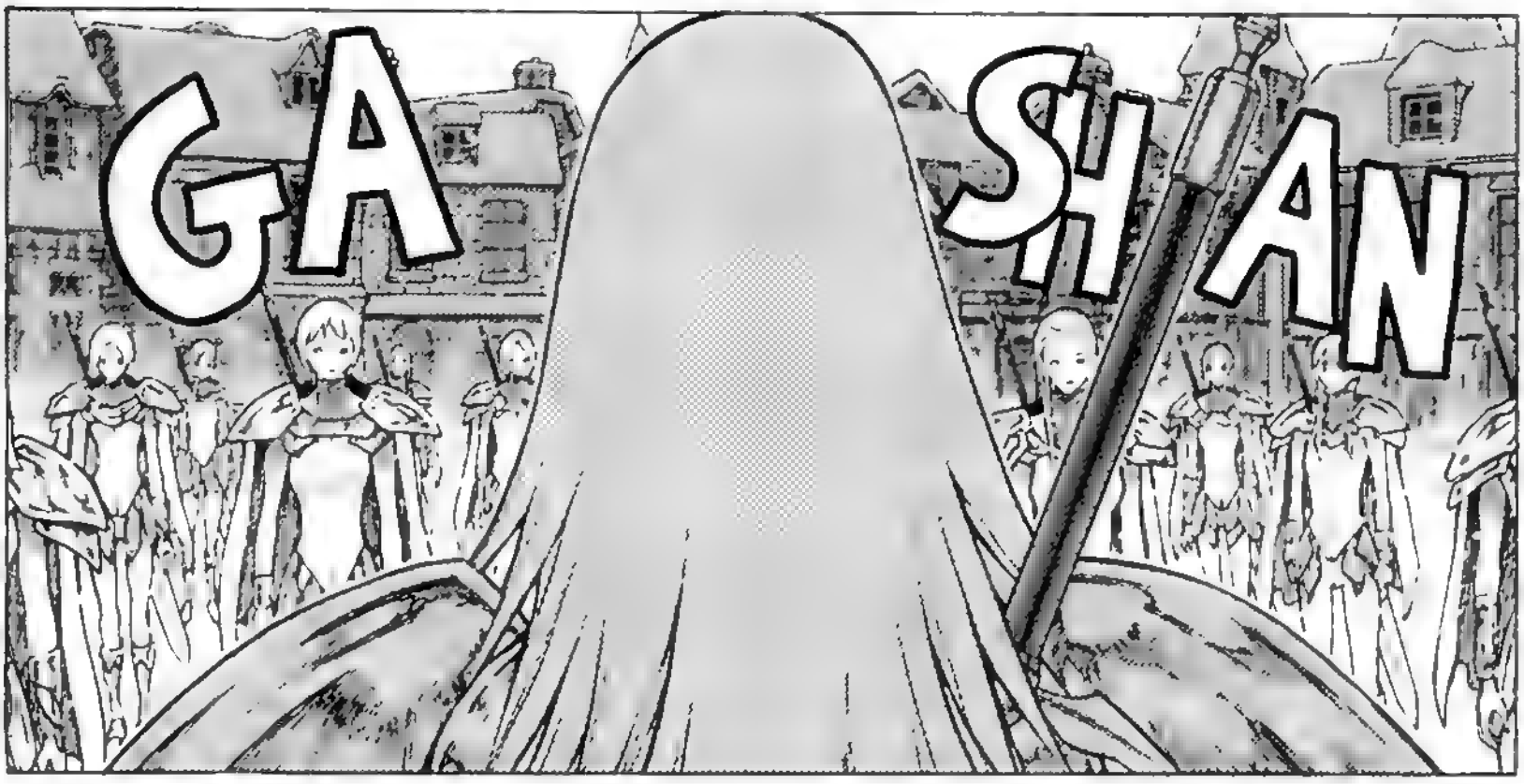


クレイモア
Claymore™

Scene 51: The Battle of the North, Part 2







Scene 51: The Battle of the North, Part 2

MY NAME IS MIRIA. I'M NUMBER 6.

I'LL BE THE LEADER OF THIS MISSION.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING FROM YOUR VARIOUS PROV-INCES.

BUT MOST OF YOU WERE SURPRISED TO BE TOLD NOTHING EXCEPT TO COME TO THIS LOCATION FOR YOUR NEXT JOB, AND THEN TO FIND SO MANY COMRADES HERE.

SOME OF YOU HERE MAY ALREADY KNOW THE DETAILS.

WE NEED THIS MANY HANDS BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF AWAKENED BEINGS WE FACE.

OUR JOB IS TO WIPE OUT THE AWAKENED BEINGS THAT HAVE BEEN GATHERING HERE IN THE NORTHERN LAND OF ALFONS.

IN FACT, NUMBER 7, WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THIS AREA, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER COMRADES, HAVE ALREADY LOST THEIR LIVES.

STILL, IT'S THE TRUTH.

BUT THERE'S NO WAY AWAKENED ONES BUNCH UP TOGETHER ...

NO... "NUMBER" OF AWAKENED BEINGS?

WHA ...

!

THEN YOU CAN JUST RUN AWAY!

!

IF THAT SCARES YOU, LITTLE PRINCESS ...

NO ...

YOU GOT NO BUSINESS HERE IF YOU GET SCARED AT THE SIGHT OF THE ENEMY.

IF YOU'RE GONNA QUIT, DO IT NOW.

OUR PURPOSE IS TO BATTLE YOMA AND AWAKENED ONES— ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

MMM ...

READ THIS WAY

SHE SAYS HER TWO-SWORD STYLE IS THE STRONGEST OF ALL WARRIORS.

THAT'S NUMBER II, UNDINE.

AND SHE'S CARRYING TWO BROADSWORDS.

THAT ONE SURE HAS AN ATTITUDE.

REALLY?

Maybe so...

SHE MUST BE REALLY INSECURE.

BUT IF YOU ASK ME, HAVING ALL THAT MUSCLE IS USELESS EXCEPT FOR FIGHTING... I THINK SHE'S JUST SHOWING OFF.

HUH?

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?

WHAT DID YA SAY?

EH?

PRETTY FUNNY, AIN'T YA?

MY, MY ...

I GUESS MY NATURAL VOICE IS LOUD.

SORRY. I MEANT TO SAY IT SO YOU COULDN'T HEAR ME.

!

TRY IT, IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH.

WHAT? YOU WANT TO GO?

CUT IT OUT, DENE ...

HEY HEY ...

GIVE IT A SHOT, IF YOU CAN!

THINK YOU CAN PULL THAT IN FRONT OF AN AWAKENED ONE?

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?

YOU JUST SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME!

READ THIS WAY

LET'S DO IT!

YOU WANNA GO?

HUH?

WHAT WAS THAT?

HOW'S MIRIA GONNA HANDLE THIS MOB?

WHEN EVEN FOUR OR FIVE GET TOGETHER FOR AN AWAKENED BEING HUNT, SOME JUST LOVE TO ARGUE.

...

MAN... WHAT A BUNCH OF GARBAGE.

!

GA SHAK

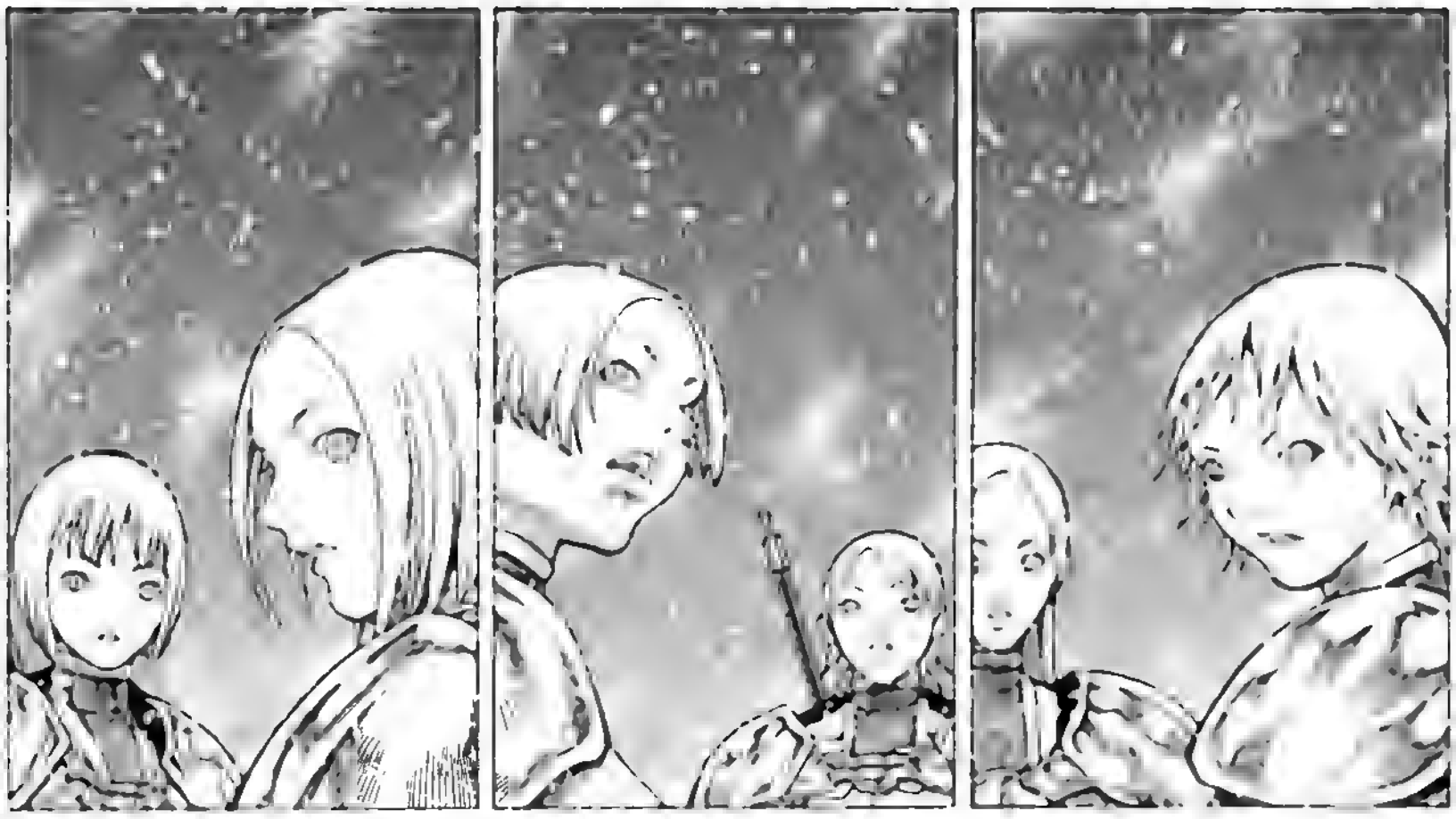
WSSH

SIGH.

...

DRAW YOUR SWORD!

DO
GAAAAAA



WE'RE NOT THROUGH TALK-ING.
EVERY-ONE, QUIET PLEASE.

... I'D BE HAPPY TO FACE HER MYSELF.
IF ANYONE ELSE FEELS LIKE MAKING TROUBLE ...

TCH!

WHA...

...

THANKS.

!

MIRIA.

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH YOUR EXPLANATION...

!

SHE CAN WIPE AWAY THE SNOW WITH A MERE SWEEP OF HER SWORD.

ALL THE SNOW AROUND HER COMPLETELY BLEW AWAY.

SO... WHAT DOES SHE THINK SHE'S DOING?

SHE IS AN ELITE WARRIOR, THE FASTEST THERE IS IN THE SIMPLE ACT OF DRAWING HER SWORD, CUTTING, AND RESHEATHING.

ALSO KNOWN AS "WIND-CUTTING FLORA."

NUMBER 8 IN THE ORGANIZATION, FLORA.

SEE?

!

IT'S SO FAST YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE IT. IT'S SAID HER SPEED IS SECOND TO NONE.

YOU ARE ALSO A SINGLE DIGIT, SO PLEASE STEP FORWARD.

NO.

ALL RIGHT THEN.

YES ...

OH... SORRY. PLEASE CONTINUE.

!

JEAN.

NUMBER 13, VERONICA.

COME TO THE FRONT.

ALSO, NUMBER 11, UNDINE.

ZAT

ZAT

WHAT?

ZA

T

MEANING EACH TEAM WILL BE LIKE A REGULAR AWAKENED ONE HUNTING PARTY.

EACH TEAM WILL HAVE FOUR OR FIVE MEMBERS.

TWENTY-FOUR WARRIORS HAVE GATHERED HERE.

THE FIVE OF US COMMANDERS WILL DIVIDE THE GROUP INTO FIVE TEAMS.

YOU'LL BOTH BE UNIT LEADERS.

READ THIS WAY

AH ...

I GET IT.

WE'RE ONLY DIVIDING IN ORDER TO MAKE THE TEAMS EQUALLY STRONG. NO OBJECTIONS WILL BE PERMITTED.

NOW LET'S DIVIDE INTO TEAMS.

YOU'RE WITH UNDINE.

NUMBER 15, DENEVE.

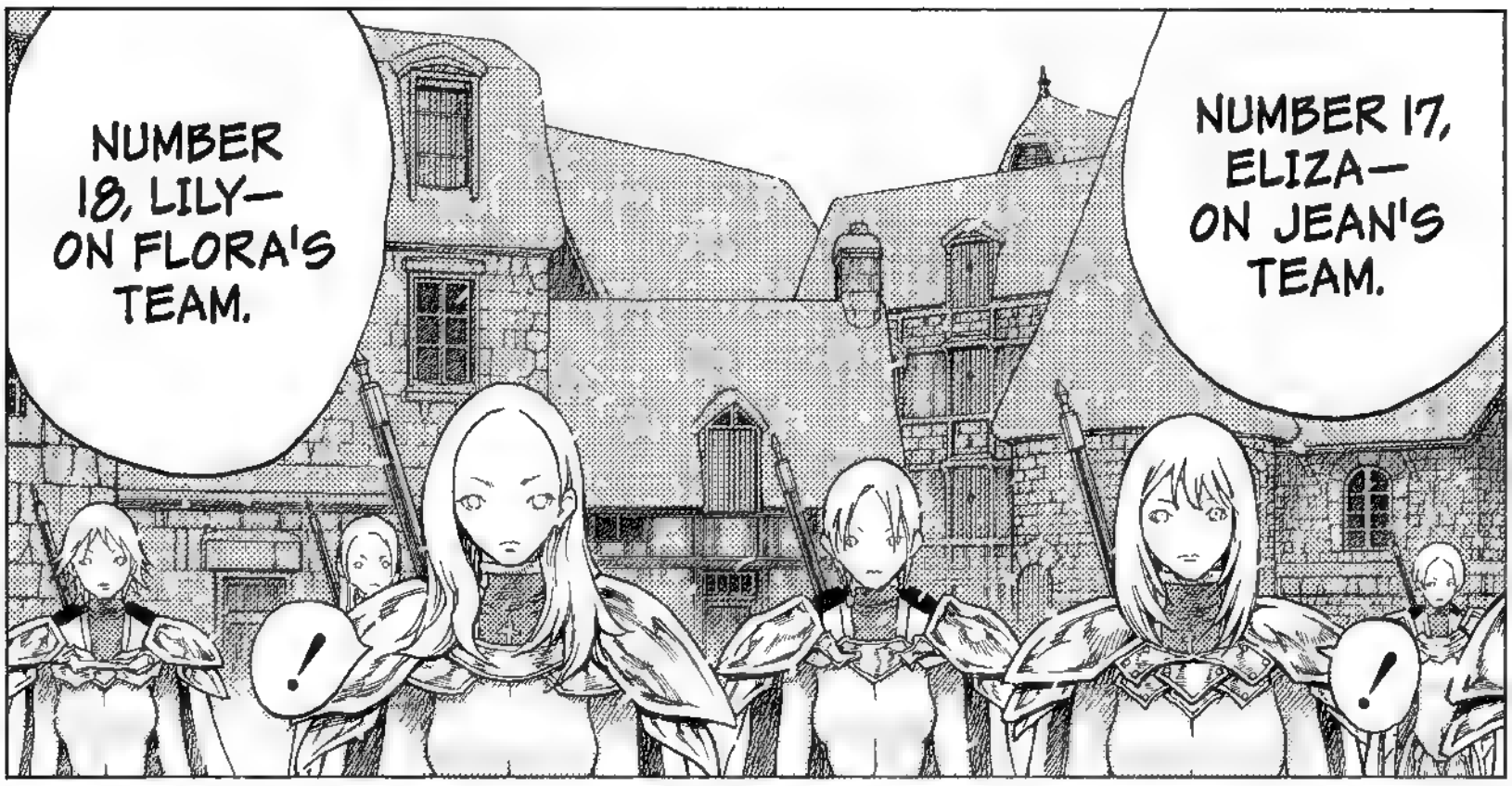
!

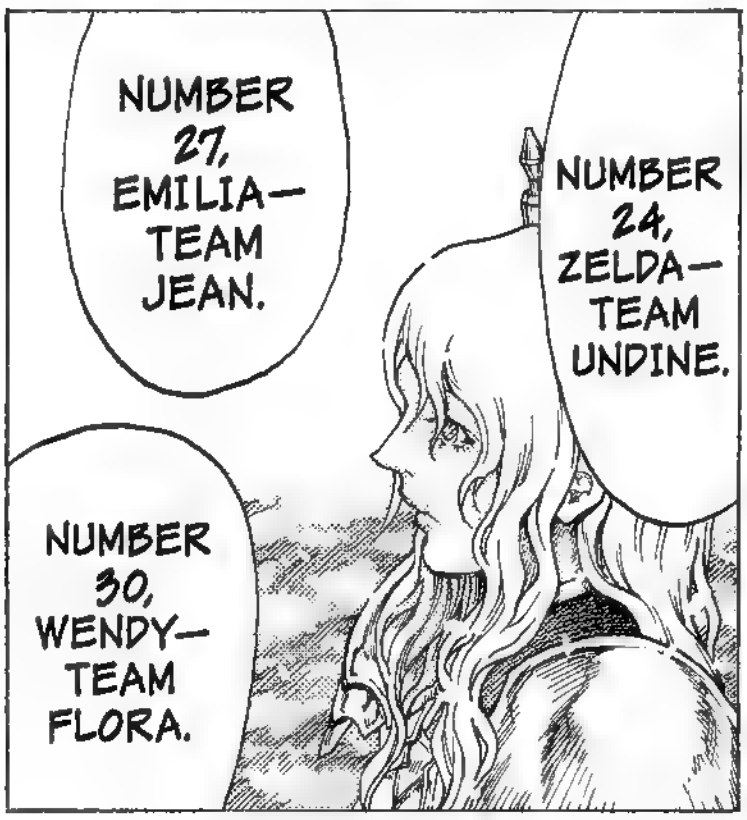
YOU'RE ON NUMBER 13 VERON-ICA'S TEAM.

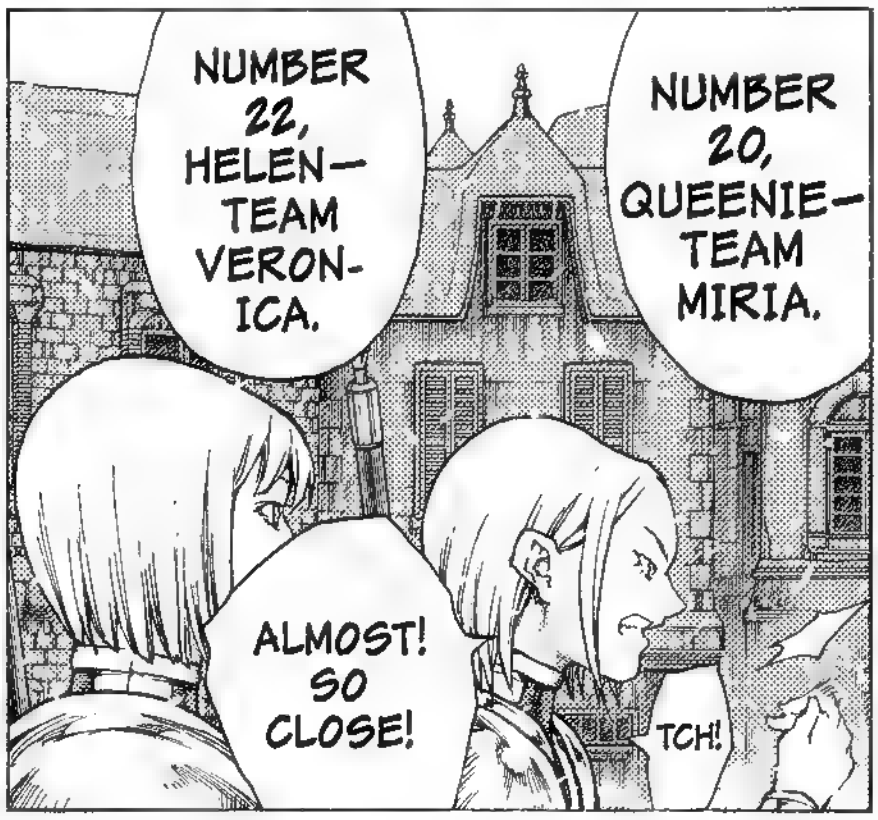
NUMBER 14, CYNTHIA.

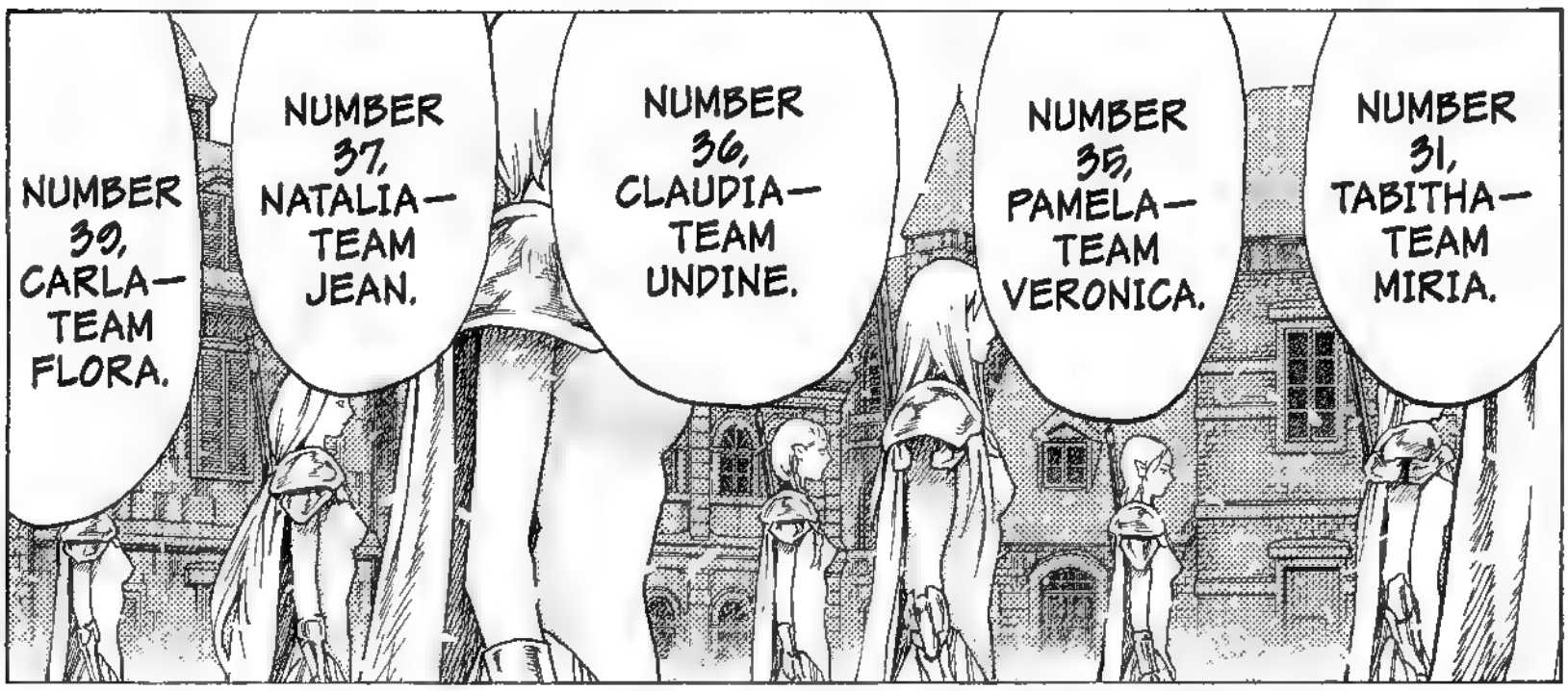
YES.

HERE.


NUMBER 18, LILY— ON FLORA'S TEAM.
NUMBER 17, ELIZA— ON JEAN'S TEAM.
!
!


NUMBER 27, EMILIA— TEAM JEAN.
NUMBER 24, ZELDA— TEAM UNDINE.
NUMBER 30, WENDY— TEAM FLORA.


NUMBER 22, HELEN— TEAM VERONICA.
NUMBER 20, QUEENIE— TEAM MIRIA.
ALMOST! SO CLOSE!
TCH!


NUMBER 39, CARLA— TEAM FLORA.
NUMBER 37, NATALIA— TEAM JEAN.
NUMBER 36, CLAUDIA— TEAM UNDINE.
NUMBER 35, PAMELA— TEAM VERONICA.
NUMBER 31, TABITHA— TEAM MIRIA.

READ THIS WAY

NUMBER 43, YULIANA— TEAM UNDINE.

NUMBER 41, MATILDA— TEAM VERONICA.

NUMBER 40, UMA— TEAM MIRIA.

IS THERE ANYONE WHOSE NAME WASN'T CALLED?

MY TEAM HAS FOUR. ALL OTHERS HAVE FIVE.

NUMBER 47, CLARE— TEAM FLORA.

NUMBER 44, DEANA— TEAM JEAN.

THAT'S ALL.

THEN TAKE TODAY TO REMEMBER YOUR TEAM-MATES' FACES.

GOOD.

ONE TEAM GOES AFTER ONE AWAKENED BEING. THAT'S THE BASIC PLAN, JUST LIKE ALWAYS.

THERE IS NO SPECIAL STRATEGY.

OR ELSE WE WON'T FIGHT... WE'LL PULL BACK TEMPORARILY, AND ONLY FIGHT WHEN THE OPPONENT IS ALONE.

IF THERE ARE TWO OR MORE AWAKENED BEINGS, WE'LL EITHER CHALLENGE THEM WITH TWO TEAMS...

TODAY, YOU'RE TIRED FROM YOUR TRAVELS. GET SOME REST.

WE'LL START THE OPER-ATION TOMOR-ROW.

READ THIS WAY

WOOO

DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT.

HEY.

CLANK

ZZT

HEH HEH ...

ZAT

WE'RE A PRETTY ANTI-SOCIAL GROUP TO START WITH.

SO THE OTHERS DON'T PAY MUCH ATTEN-TION WHEN WE WANDER OFF.

GASHAN

!

!

GA SHAN

!

HERE'S TO OUR REUN-ION.

GA SHAN

ZZT

READ THIS WAY

GASHANG

GLAD TO SEE IT.

SO YOU ALL SUR-VIVED.

HEE HEE HEE.

SOME-HOW...

AH, I MANAGED TO DECEIVE THEM ...

HOW WAS IT AFTER THAT?

!

WELL, COMPARED TO US, MIRIA WAS IN THE MOST DANGEROUS POSITION.

!!

SHP

SHOW YOUR-SELF!

WHO'S THERE!?

READ THIS WAY

CLARE! YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWED!

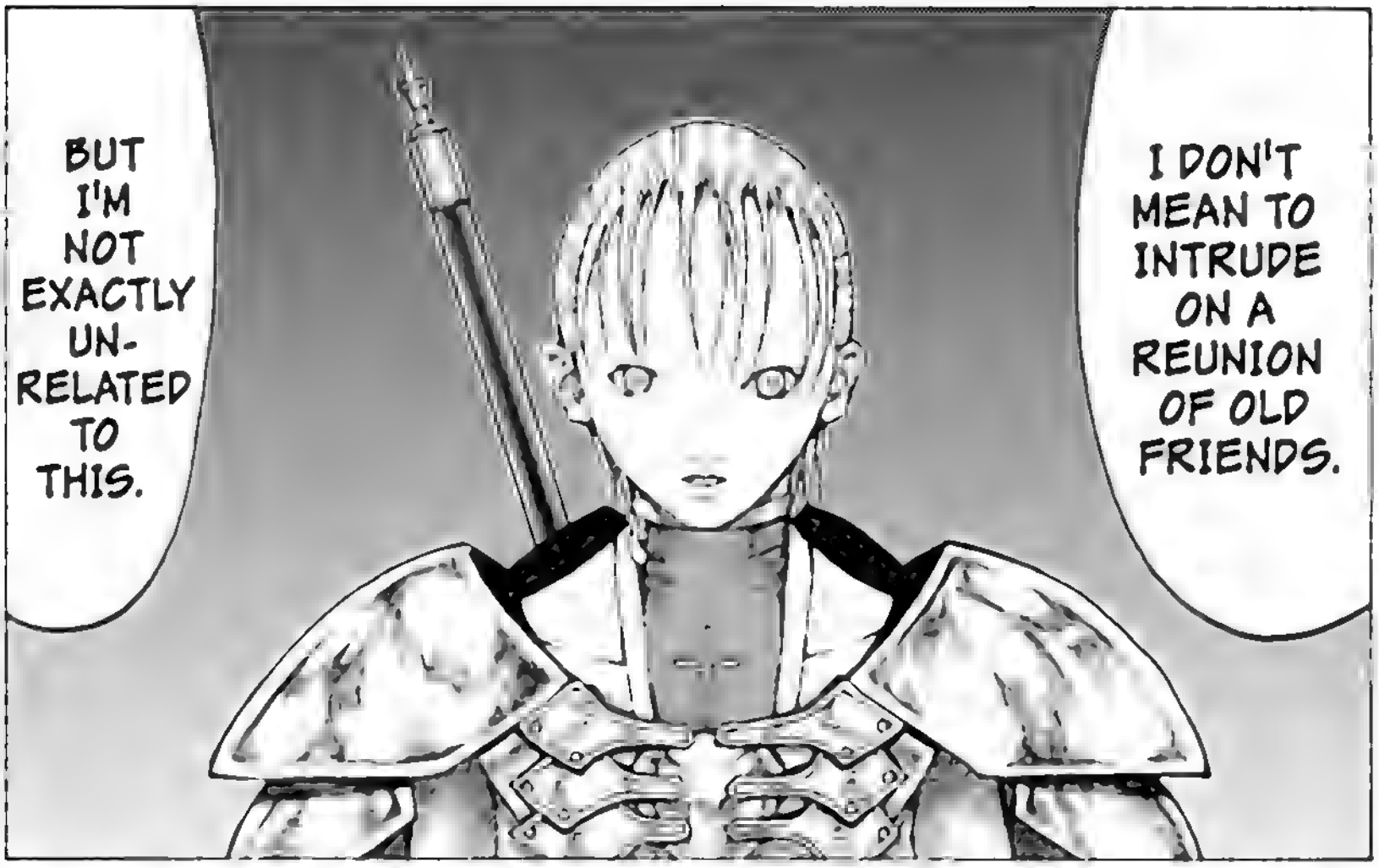
YOU'RE ...

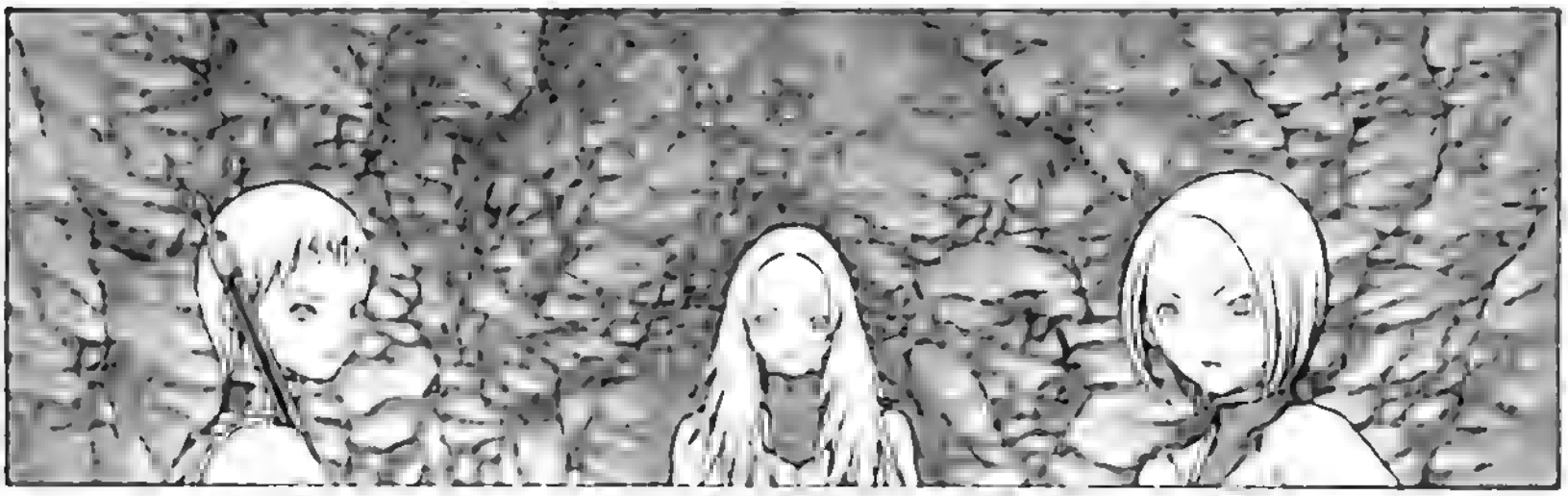
JEAN IS IN THE SAME SITUATION WE ARE.

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

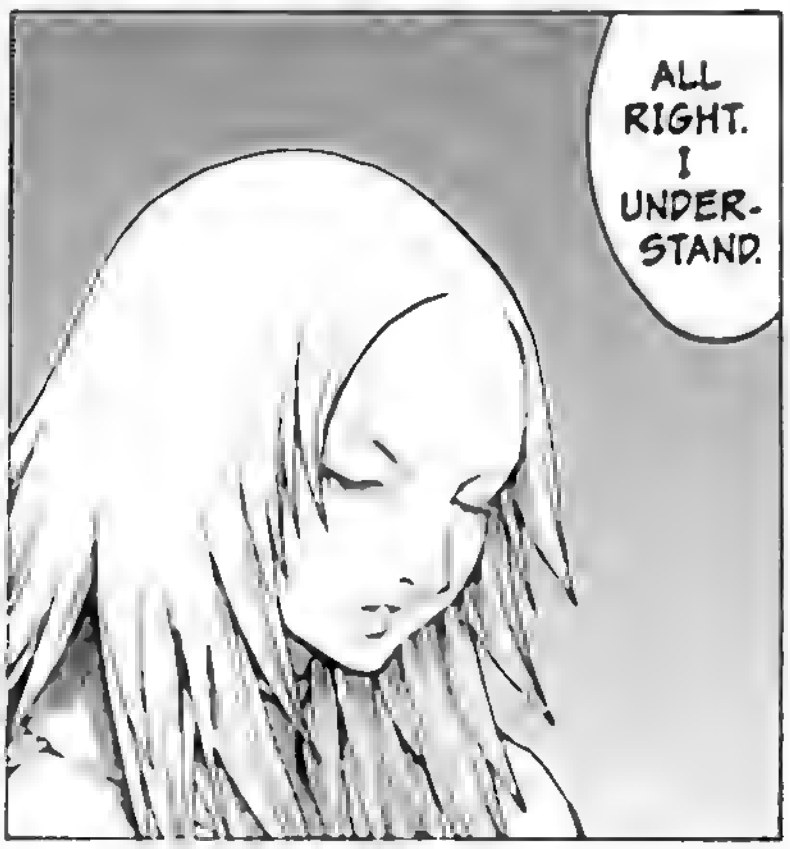
I SEE... SO IT'S THAT KIND OF GROUP.

WHA ...


BUT I'M NOT EXACTLY UN-RELATED TO THIS.
I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE ON A REUNION OF OLD FRIENDS.



CLARE, PLEASE EXPLAIN.
FIRST, I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HAP-PENED.
OKAY.


ALL RIGHT. I UNDER-STAND.

READ THIS WAY

crackle crackle crackle

INCRED-IBLE.

YOUR BODY WAS COMPLETELY AWAKENED, AND YET YOU MANAGED TO COME BACK?

IT MUST BE DUE TO AN EXTRAOR-DINARY STRENGTH OF SPIRIT.

IT'S PROB-ABLY NOT SOME-THING ANY OF US WOULD BE ABLE TO IMITATE.

?

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU SAT ON A NAIL.

CLARE! YOU...!

HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO SURVIVE AN ORDEAL LIKE THAT!?

RIFUL?

GALATEA?

CREATURES OF THE ABYSS?

HOW DID YOU DO IT!?

I NOTICED IT BEFORE... THAT RIGHT ARM IS DIFFERENT.

LOOKS LIKE THE RIGHT ARM OF SOMEONE EXTREMELY STRONG.

WHOSE IS IT?

EH?

RIGHT ARM?

EH?

SORRY. I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.

I SIMPLY LOST MY RIGHT ARM IN A FIGHT.

SOMEONE LENT THIS ONE TO ME FOR THE TIME BEING.

LENT ...

HUH?

READ THIS WAY

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR LUCK HAS BEEN RUNNING A LITTLE THIN.

AND WITH THAT ARM...

I HEARD A STORY THAT TILL RECENTLY YOU'D DROPPED OUT OF THE ORGANI-ZATION.

I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT THE FOUR OF YOU... NO, RATHER, ALL 24 OF US GATHERED HERE.

IT'S NOT ONLY ME.

WHAT ARE ITS CHANCES OF SUC-CESS?

THIS BATTLE PLAN ...

HUH?

...THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE ZERO.

FOR THIS PLAN ...

WITH THE NUMBERS WE HAVE, OUR CHANCES AGAINST THEM WOULDN'T BE BAD.

IF THERE WERE ONLY A FEW AWAKENED ONES, IT COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF.

EVEN WITH ELABORATE STRATEGY AND INCREASED FORCES, EVERYTHING WE DO WILL BE USELESS.

BUT WITH THE ONE WHO STANDS BEHIND THEM ALL...

WHAT!?

READ THIS WAY

ISLEY— THE CREATURE OF THE ABYSS.

THE SILVER KING OF THE NORTH ...

THE CREATURE OF THE ABYSS?

ISLEY...

YES. I HEARD IT FROM RIFUL OF THE WEST.

SO YOU KNOW ...

...AND THE CREATURE OF THE ABYSS, ISLEY...

BEATING ALL THE AWAKENED ONES IN THE NORTH ...

WE NEED A STRATEGY TO DEFEAT BOTH THE AWAKENED ONES AND ISLEY, THE CREATURE OF THE ABYSS THAT LEADS THEM— ALL AT ONCE.

ISLEY IS THE ONE CAUSING ALL THIS STRANGE ACTIVITY AMONG THE AWAK- ENED ONES.

WHAT THE HELL IS THE ORGANIZATION THINKING?

WE CAN'T!

THERE'S... THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN DO THAT!

AND HOLD BACK THE AWAKENED ONES FROM SPREADING FURTHER SOUTH.

I'M AFRAID THE ORGANIZATION IS MERELY TRYING TO BUY TIME.

AH...

!

IF WE'RE GONE, THEY CAN JUST CREATE MORE.

THAT'S HOW THE ORGANIZATION THINKS.

WE'RE THE MOST EXPENDABLE.

...THEN STATIONING THE MOST OBEDIENT WARRIORS IN THE REGIONS, AND SENDING THE REST TO THE NORTH.

KEEPING THE TOP FIVE WARRIORS NEAR THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF ...

READ THIS WAY

JUST PAWNS IN THE GAME.

WE'RE A WALL AGAINST THE NORTH THAT WILL EVENTU-ALLY CRUMBLE.

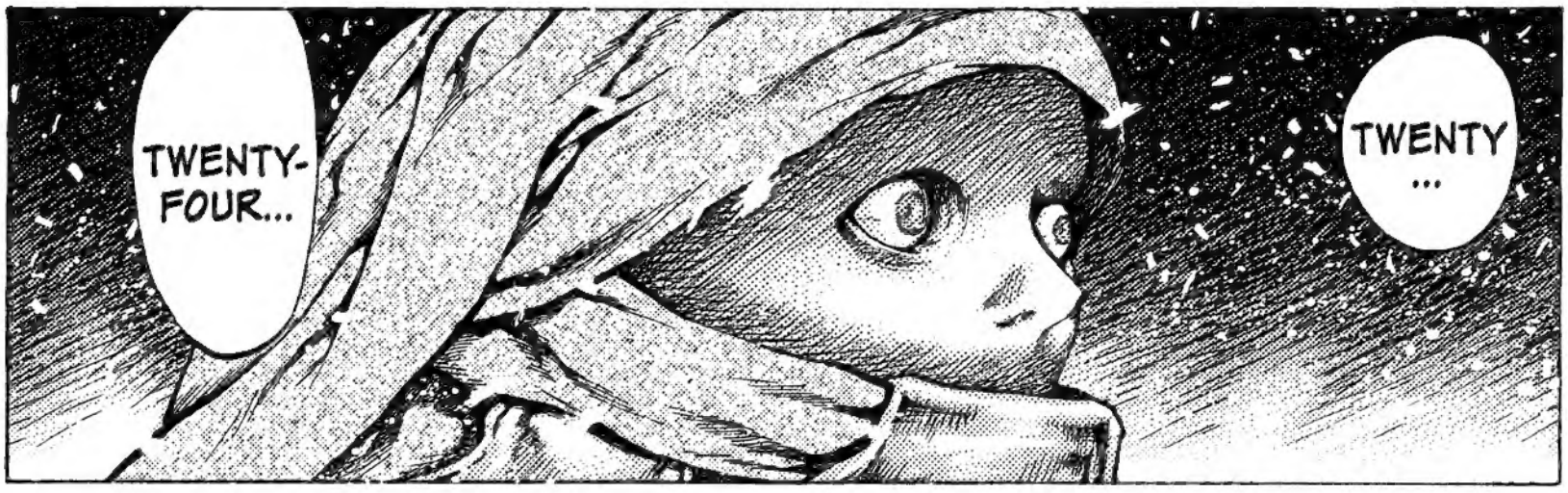
GOOOOO

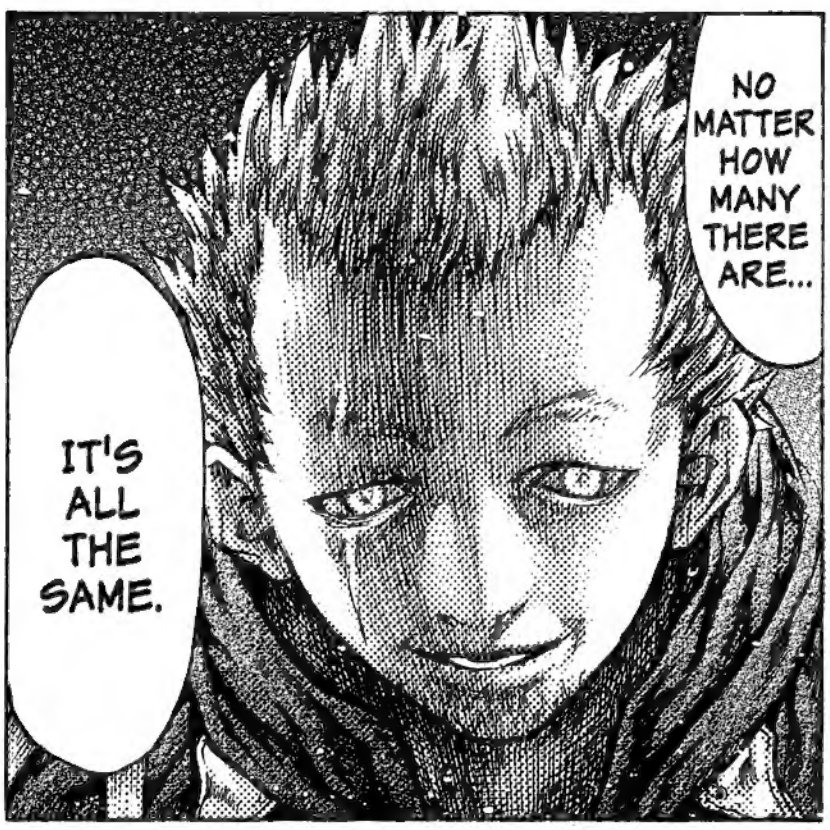
IF WE DON'T GO THROUGH THAT TOWN, OR CROSS THE STEEP MOUNTAINS ON EITHER SIDE, WE CAN'T PROCEED TO THE SOUTH.

THAT MUST BE THE TOWN OF PIETA.

THIS TOWN IS THE EDGE OF THE NORTHERN LANDS.

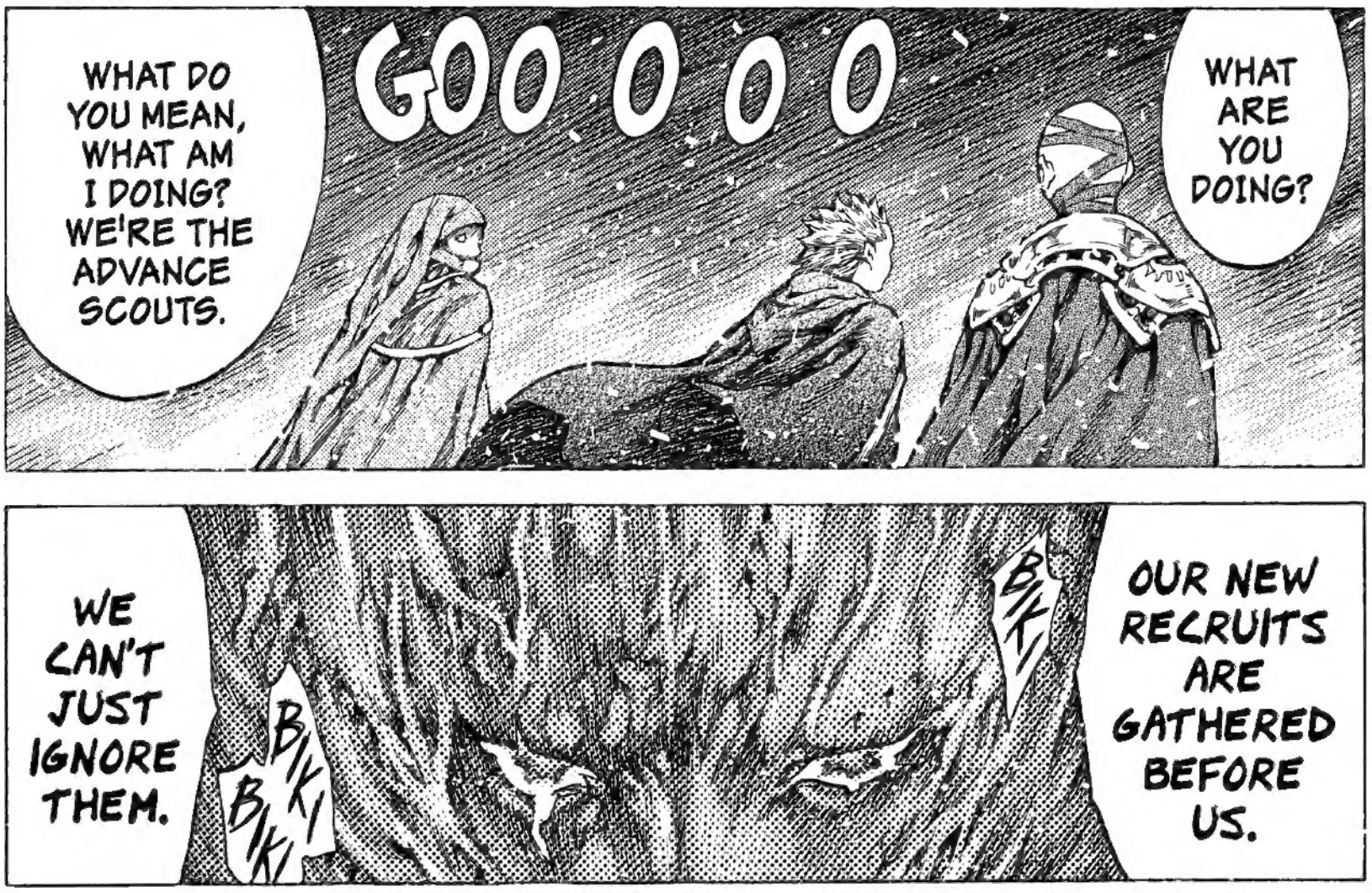
HOW MANY?
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM GATHERED.
HMM... JUST A MOMENT...

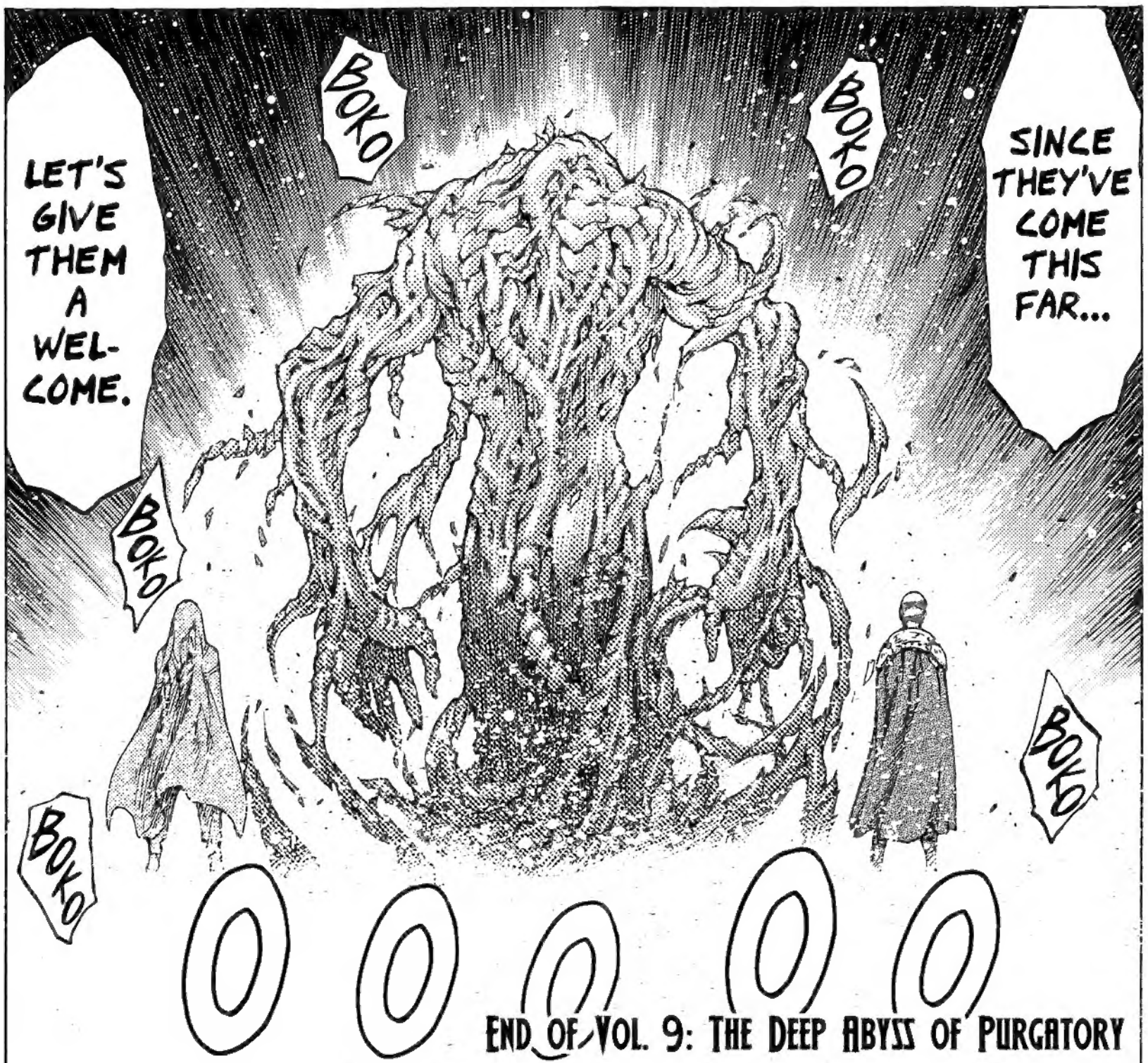

TWENTY-FOUR...
TWENTY...


NO MATTER HOW MANY THERE ARE...
IT'S ALL THE SAME.

BWA HA HA...
MORE THAN HALF.
THE ORGANI-ZATION IS GETTING DES-PERATE.

READ THIS WAY


GOOOOO
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT AM I DOING? WE'RE THE ADVANCE SCOUTS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE CAN'T JUST IGNORE THEM.
BIKI
BIKI
BIKI
OUR NEW RECRUITS ARE GATHERED BEFORE US.



END OF VOL. 9: THE DEEP ABYSS OF PURGATORY